

**IDRC  
Young  
Canadian  
Researchers  
in the Field  
1991-94: A Study**

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*February 1997*

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# **IDRC Young Canadian Researchers in the Field, 1991-94: A Study**

## **Introduction**

The Young Canadian Researchers' Award (YCRA) Program was created in 1982 to provide emerging researchers with funding to pursue research projects in developing countries at the post-graduate level. Over the years the objectives of the YCRA have evolved to mirror those of the Centre so that the research being undertaken by awardees is relevant and complementary. This study shows how this process evolved over the years 1991-94. It documents the stories and experiences of a representative number of awardees in order to highlight 'lessons learned' during the period. This information will be shared with new awardees at the outset of their tenure.

## **Objectives of the Study**

The overall objective of this study commissioned by IDRC is to review the Young Canadian Researchers' Award (YCRA) Program for the period 1991-1994, to identify difficulties encountered by YCRA recipients and, finally, to address how IDRC can better prepare awardees for their field experiences. Specific objectives include:

1. To review and analyze Project Summaries of the YCRA for the years 1991 to 1994 in order to identify specific characteristics of each project
2. To review and analyze reports of awardees from 1991 to 1994
3. To write a report summarizing the main difficulties encountered and make recommendations to IDRC.

## **Methodology**

Project Summaries were reviewed to identify specific characteristics of each project to analyze trends and alterations made during the years under review. Lists of the awardees were reviewed with a view to age, gender, Canadian university affiliation, and area of research. A total of 36 awardees were chosen to provide a representative sample to review in depth, with the aim of finding specific examples of difficulties encountered during their tenure. The study is divided into four parts:

<i>Part I:</i>	<b>Review of Program Summaries, 1991-94</b>
<i>Part II:</i>	<b>Review of Awardees' Files</b>
<i>Part III:</i>	<b>Trends</b>
<i>Part IV:</i>	<b>Recommendations</b>

While this study examines the process of the YCRA - the various aspects of its administration; recruitment; evaluation by faculty and IDRC experts; feedback from the awardees; field research reports and final reports, it is unable to measure the result of the overall objective of the YCRA -

that is whether or not the award actually enables emerging Canadian researchers to pursue careers in sustainable and equitable development.

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*NOTE:* Before reading this report, it may be important for the reader to consider the background of the author and what built-in biases may be brought to this study as a result. An initial two-year stint as a Canadian volunteer, over a decade spent living and working in the southern African region, both in private and NGO work arenas, and a subsequent dozen years working for a Canadian NGO colour my lenses towards the support of sustainable and equitable development processes of various kinds.

## ***PART I***

### **Review of Project Summaries 1991-94**

This section summarizes the Project Summaries for the period 1991-94. It shows how the objectives of the YCRA over this period become more closely aligned to the objectives of the Centre.

#### **1. Overall Objective**

In terms of objectives of the award, there were a number of changes during the period under review. Post-graduate students, both master's and doctoral levels, were eligible to apply for the awards during this period.

Described in the 1992 publicity, "To contribute to the growth of Canadian research capacity that is responsive to developing country priorities by supporting Canadians to undertake field research in Latin America, Africa, or Asia", the overall objective of the YCRA has not changed. The Project Summary for 1991 states: "Initiated in 1982, the aim of the program is to encourage the involvement of young Canadians in scientific areas of concern to IDRC and to give them, at the same time, exposure to the problems and realities of Asia, Africa or Latin America."

The award has evolved to becoming increasingly more responsive to the objectives of IDRC. "It contributes to the growth of Canadian research capacity that is responsive and relevant to the developing world." (1991 Project Summary). In 1993, the phrase *sustainable and equitable development* (SED) was written into IDRC policy to support research specifically in the field of sustainable and equitable development (SED). The 1993 publicity reflected that corporate objective:

The purpose in offering these awards is to contribute to the growth of research capacity in Canada in sustainable and equitable development.

Key words/phrases such as *linkages*, *capacity building*, *responsive* and *relevant* and *environment* are interwoven throughout the objectives: linkages with the students and IDRC and with their affiliate institutions in the host country; linkages with IDRC and the Canadian academic community; the capacity of the students to conduct their field research; the capacity of the affiliate institution in the host country to provide assistance and support; the importance of the research being both responsive and relevant to the developing country as well as to IDRC; and the importance of the research to the environment.

In 1991 the decision was made to target only academic candidates

because of increasing overlap and/or duplication with other awards offered to professional and to Master's level applicants, (e.g. CIDA Awards for Canadians). This also acknowledges the Centre's mandate to fund research on international issues.

In the same year, the Environmental Policy Program contribute \$60,000 to the YCRA to support the research of Canadian graduate students in this field of study and to sensitize Canadian graduate students involved in Environmental Studies.

### ***Summary of objectives***

1. To encourage the involvement of emerging Canadian researchers in scientific areas of concern to IDRC, giving them at the same time exposure to the problems and realities of developing countries
2. To fund the research of emerging graduate students with the aim of encouraging them to pursue careers in research
3. To provide linkages between Canadian and developing country expertise by requiring that awardees be affiliated with a research or training institution in the host country where the field research is undertaken
4. To strengthen the process of capacity building
5. To facilitate linkages and increase collaboration between the awardees and IDRC experts so that the outcome of their field research and experience in the host country may be added to the knowledge base of the Centre
6. To strengthen Canadian capacity to fully participate as partners in the development process throughout the world
7. To provide linkages with the Canadian university community
8. To increase communication with awardees, before, during and after tenure
9. To offer the award to Canadian graduate students who are registered in developing country universities (in response to a recommendation made by the IDRC Board of Governments in 1989)
10. To offer a few awards to candidates who carry out a part or all of their research in countries of the North on sustainable and equitable development as it pertains to the South.

## **2. Eligible Fields of Study**

Below is a comparison of eligible fields for Ph.Ds listed in 1992 and 1994, showing the increasing emphasis on the word *environment* and reflecting the changes to the Centre's objectives:

1992	1994
Health Sciences	Integrating Environmental, Social and Economic Policies
Information Sciences and Systems	Technology and the Environment
Social Sciences	Food Systems under Stress
Environmental and Natural Sciences	Information and Communication for Environment and Development
Research Utilization	Health and the Environment
Gender and Development	Biodiversity



Master's students were considered for the YCRA only in the areas of Health Sciences, Information Sciences and Environmental Policy and this remained constant throughout the period under review.

### 3. Eligibility

The following conditions for eligibility remained constant during the period under review:

- Hold Canadian Citizenship or permanent residency status
- Be registered at a Canadian university
- Proposed research is for a doctoral or a master's thesis. Approval by the appropriate academic committee is required
- Provide evidence of affiliation with an institution or organization in the region in which the research will take place
- Master's students must provide evidence that course work will be completed and comprehensive examination passed by the time of award tenure.

In 1993 the suitability of candidates was measured by the conditions as listed above and also by appropriate academic background to undertake the research, previous academic standing, referees' assessments, previous overseas experience and the language skills necessary to undertake the proposed research.

*Special feature:* In 1993 a few awards were earmarked for SED research to be conducted in countries in the North, since SED issues involve countries in the North and South:

This phase will continue to accept applications for research to be conducted in Northern countries provided the research deals with an issue of sustainable and equitable development that is a priority for IDRC. (1994 Project Summary)

### 4. Affiliation with Host Country Institutions

A general statement was included in the 1991 and 1992 Project Summaries, stating ...each awardee must be affiliated with a research or training institute in the developing country where the field research is undertaken. However, affiliations can range from 'mere acknowledgement to very substantial help'. (1994 Project Summary).

By 1993, a more consistent definition of affiliation was being sought: "To be fairer in the requirements of awardees, a more consistent definition of 'affiliation' should be set." (1993 Project Summary) This was still an issue in 1994:

The program needs to define more clearly what is expected of institutional affiliation, so as to prevent inconsistency in the evaluation of applicants, as well as to plan for greater benefits for the research and the affiliated institution. (1994 Project Summary)

## 5. Duration of Tenure

The following information remained constant, also noting that the award tenure corresponds to the period of field research in the developing country:

- For a period not less than three months to a maximum of 12 months
- Doctoral students may be considered for a longer period of tenure, to a maximum of 24 months.

## 6. Value of Award

Rules regarding the value of the awards as outlined below, did not change:

- Justifiable field research expenses (in budget outline submitted by the candidate) are covered to a maximum of \$20,000 per year.
- For doctoral students who require the maximum period of 24 months, the total value will not exceed \$40,000.

## 7. Deadlines for Applications

Up until 1993, applications were accepted throughout the year. In 1994, two cycles of competition were introduced:

- January 15, 1995 (awards will be announced mid-April)
- June 30, 1995 (awards will be announced end of September)

Each year applicants were informed, "All supporting documentation must be completed before the application will be considered."

***Recruitment Process Changes:*** Because of increased demand for YCRA awards, deadlines and a selection committee were re-introduced in 1994:

Applications will continue to be assessed individually by IDRC program officers and by regional offices. However, should the number of qualified applicants exceed the funds available for awards, a selection committee will meet to determine which of the qualified applicants will receive awards." (1994 Project Summary)

## 8. Evaluation of Applications

Information about the evaluation process was not specifically stated in the YCRA publicity until 1993 and remained the same in 1994:

- Applications will be evaluated according to criteria such as relevance to sustainable and equitable development, relevance to IDRC priorities, quality of research proposal, future impact of research, suitability of the candidate, and suitability of the proposed affiliation.

In the 1993 Project Summary, eligibility and selection criteria were redefined. A points system, from 1 to 10 was introduced to rate candidates on such criteria as relevance of

research to IDRC, quality or ability of the candidate to conduct the research, methodology and recommendations by faculty supervisors. A form memo sent to IDRC evaluators notes:

Each applicant is assessed individually. The challenge is not to choose among several candidates as in a competition, but to assess the extent to which each individual application meets specified criteria. Therefore it is not crucial to arrive at a numerical ranking. You may prefer to use qualitative descriptions rather than to quantify your assessment of each application. The evaluation form is simply a tool for structuring your analysis of the application materials.

It outlined the overall evaluation objective this way:

The long-term ideal would be to select candidates whose research is directly linked to the Centre's priorities and complements or contributes to existing Centre-supported projects. However, the research proposed by YCRA applicants may investigate issues of interest to but not yet addressed by the Centre. Such research could provide the Centre with valuable baseline data. You may wish to take this factor into account when you assess the relevance of the proposed research.

**Regional assessment introduced:** In 1994 a regional assessment of proposals was introduced. Eligible research proposals were sent for review to both the expert program officer in Ottawa and to the appropriate regional office for an assessment whether the proposals met the priorities of the region and the regional office. The Project Summary of that year noted:

Regional Offices have responded positively to their involvement in the assessment of applicants. Applicants have also received the benefit of a regional perspective on their proposals.

9. Number of YCRA Awardees - 1991-94

Year	Number of Awardees	Language		Age		Gender		Type of Degree	
		E	F	Youngest	Oldest	M	F	Masters	Ph.D
1991	21	15	6	25	49	10	11	5	16
1992	31	25	6	25	51	15	16	12	19
1993	19	15	4	26	52	6	13	6	13
1994	32	25	7			15	17	15	17

## 10. Changes to Administration Processes

- a) Applications:** The fluctuation in the number of awards each year as shown in the table above occurred because the amount of money granted for each award differs from awardee to awardee. In periods where there were more candidates than funding, some recipients had to wait for the next phase of the program:

The YCRA program was originally run as a competition, with deadlines and a selection committee. In 1990, however, a new system was introduced. Deadlines were removed, applicants were evaluated upon receipt, and awards were granted throughout the year. This system worked well for several years. However, since 1992, the number of applications qualified to receive awards has increased, so much so that the funds available in each phase of the program have been insufficient. Awardees have been asked to wait until funds from the next phase of the program are available; however, this has sometimes caused delays which have adversely affected awardees who have to meet academic deadlines. (1994 Project Summary)

- b) Updating of forms and processes:** In 1993, reporting requirements for awardees were reviewed and new forms (application, interim and final) designed. While these forms were always available in both official languages, the redesign of the application form accommodated both languages on the same form.

- c) Communication:** IDRC program officers with an interest in awardees' research receive, upon request, copies of the awardees' interim and final reports. Other communication issues still need to be addressed:

An information system to keep other interested parties, both within and outside the Centre informed of approved awards, however, still needs to be set up. (1994 Project Summary)

- d) Information system:** In 1994 when the Centre Training and Research Awards (CENTRA) database became operational, it was possible to analyze trends in the YCRA program over its previous phases. However, not all the information was available in CENTRA and the information systems utilized over the four phases under review were inconsistent. However, CENTRA will be used to keep interested parties informed of awardees' progress. Also,

The feasibility and desirability of tracking other information that can help determine if there has been any systemic bias in granting awards (e.g. ethnic background of awardees) will be studied. (1994 Project Summary)

## 11. University Affiliation in Canada

Some Canadian universities are very well represented as the awardee's academic institution in Canada, as the following table indicates. Universities such as Guelph, which have managed overseas research projects very successfully for many years are very familiar with IDRC and other funding agencies such as CIDA and know how to access sponsorships of various kinds. As a result professors know many of the IDRC experts involved in their projects, particularly if they are IDRC-supported.

*Number of Awardees - Listed by University Affiliation in Canada\**

Number of Awardees	University Affiliation in Canada
13	Guelph
7	Toronto
6	UBC
5	McMaster, Carleton, Laval, York, Montréal
4	McGill, UQAM
3	Waterloo
2	Queen's, Calgary, Manitoba, Sherbrooke
1	Victoria, Wilfrid Laurier, Simon Fraser

\* These statistics are based on 73 awardees (out of the total of 103 for 1991-94) for which statistics were readily available.

**12. Host Country chosen for research project**

The choice of host country appears to be made most often by the recipient, who may already have some expertise in that country or have contacts who have agreed to host them. Some awardees wish to conduct research in the country of their birth. The table below shows the number of awardees who conducted research in the following countries. Please note that some awardees travelled to more than one country.

*Number of Awardees - Host Countries Chosen for Research Projects\**

5 awardees	4 awardees	3 awardees	2 awardees	1 awardee
Indonesia Mexico Thailand Ecuador	Ghana Mal Zimbabwe Uganda China Nepal	Brazil Malawi India Caribbean	Egypt Bénin Botswana	Guyana, Israel, Chile South Africa, Togo Peru, Pakistan, Colombia Sénégal, Malaysia Philippines, Mozambique Burkino Faso, Tanzania

\* These statistics are based on 73 awardees (out of the total of 103 for 1991-94) for which statistics were readily available.

13. Fields of Study

Fields of study undertaken by the awardees are listed below in a broad context.

Gender and Development	Health and Nutrition
Agriculture Forestry	Water and Sanitation
Rural Development	Environmental Sciences
Small Enterprise Development	Refugee Issues
Youth and Education	Economic Development
Natural Resources	Environmental Impact Assessment

In many cases there is an overlap between the fields such as a health and nutrition project targetting children, or an education project targetting youth at risk of contracting HIV. Environmental factors are increasingly interwoven into all research as is gender, and the issue of empowerment, and poverty alleviation.

## ***PART II***

### **Review of Awardees' Files**

For this study, 36 awardees were selected to provide a representative sample, approximately nine for each year under review. They are listed in alphabetical order in the Appendix. The information is presented in the form of case studies. It is not an attempt to present a statistical analysis, rather it is provided to illustrate the experiences of the awardees and to provide specific examples of their research projects. The information is provided under the following headings:

- **Feedback from awardees**
  - *Successes identified by awardees*
  - *Difficulties identified by awardees*
- **YCRA communication with Awardees**
- **Communicating IDRC Experts' comments on proposals back to Candidates**
- **Affiliation with host country institutions**
- **Feedback from Canadian academic supervisors**
- **Feedback from other sources**
- **Relevance of research to IDRC**

### **1. FEEDBACK FROM AWARDEES**

#### ***I. SUCCESSES IDENTIFIED BY AWARDEES***

##### **a) Value of interacting with fellow researchers**

Awardees consistently comment on the value of working with other researchers/like-minded people in the host country.

- ***Patricia Spittal***<sup>1</sup> worked as part of a team in Uganda on an HIV project which made them question their work and required the team members to be very supportive of each other.

Working with others is often possible through the affiliated institution in the host community where they are conducting their research. Awardees explain that it provides stimulation and opportunity for cooperation. Many also talk about learning much more than they have contributed or left behind at the end of their tenure.

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<sup>1</sup> (93-1201-18) *No longer strangers: Participatory evidence and the development of culturally appropriate HIV/AIDS interventions in Lyantonde, Uganda*, McMaster University

- **David Rowbotham**<sup>2</sup> reported that he benefitted from meeting some of the leading hydrologists working in the Himalayan region at an International Snow and Ice Hydrology Conference in Kathmandu.
- **David McDonald**,<sup>3</sup> conducting research in South Africa, wanted to work with fellow graduate students because “too much research is done in isolation.”
- **Anna-Marie Ball**<sup>4</sup> was able to hire four young Batswana as research assistants. They were doing their national service in Palapye and were asked to assist her with providing AIDS education in the community. Although they were not originally from Palapye they had lived there for some time. Because sexual behaviour is such a sensitive, taboo and private subject the research required tact and respect and it was an advantage that the young assistants had already become known in the community. Ms Ball provided them with training in research and they agreed to lead focus groups with her in English and Setswana. Although their national service assignments were finished before she completed her research, she was able to employ some for a longer period. As a result, they gained more experience in conducting research.

Ms Ball also noted that meeting and mixing with other academics and practitioners was what she valued most about her research experience in Botswana.

This grounded my research and gave me a taste of ‘the real world’. Ultimately it allows me to focus my goals more realistically.

#### b) Importance of community involvement and community ownership of the research

Some awardees felt they had been successful in involving the target community in their research, either through Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) or Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA).

- **Alex MacKenzie**,<sup>5</sup> a MSc student at University of Guelph used RRA in upland basins of the Lolah watershed in Indonesia to collect farmers’ perceptions of resource constraints and conservation needs. He made some changes in his methodology including using RRA with PRA because he wanted to get the farmers to evaluate their own resource perceptions and needs. He noted:

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<sup>2</sup> (91-1025-19) *Applying a GIS to land use hazards in Phew Tal watershed, Nepal*, University of Waterloo

<sup>3</sup> (93-1201-21) *The politics of ecology in South Africa: Local government restructuring and environmental policy in Cape Town*, University of Toronto

<sup>4</sup> (92-1201-20) *The social and cultural construction of sexual risk by youth in Botswana*, University of Manitoba

<sup>5</sup> (91-1025-31) *A methodology for involvement of remote communities in watershed management in Sulawesi Selatan, Indonesia*, University of Toronto



PRA is about introducing a process of learning for both the researcher and the community.

- **Archana Dwivedi**<sup>6</sup> had previous experience in PRA techniques before going to India to research the effectiveness and efficiency of community participation in health and nutrition programs in India, comparing a community with NGO support to one with government support. Others found that this process was not working in their research.
- **Andres Sanchez-Bain**<sup>7</sup> stated that the purpose of his research in Mexico was  
To explore a more holistic approach to the planning of sanitary and hygienic activities in rural communities that would be based on respect for the indigenous culture, and be compatible with the communities' priorities and needs.

He noted that although thousands of communities worldwide have been provided with safe water systems during International Water Decade (1980-90), health benefits have not lived up to expectations. A contributing reason is "that efforts to improve environmental, sanitation and hygienic conditions failed to keep pace with water provision."

In addition, sanitation proposals focused primarily on latrine construction and top-down hygiene activities, with little attention given to existing hygiene behaviors and even less to the concerns of the communities or their acceptance of the changes being introduced.

- **Judith Stamp**<sup>8</sup> used PRA techniques in Zimbabwe in her research into indigenous agroforestry. She used the outputs, maps drawn and data collected through interviews, to improve collective and individual action towards sustainable agroforestry both in villages and beyond.

One YCRA recipient who lived in a remote Amerindian village in Guyana for nearly six months researched the relationship between the villagers and nearby *outsiders*, development project employees in terms of how communications techniques help or hinder that relationship.

- **Ellen Hagerman**<sup>9</sup> used PRA techniques along with concepts of GAD and SPP to promote the re-valuing of local knowledge...participatory knowledge coming from the Amerindian peoples. The willingness of the Guyanese Amerindians to communicate their knowledge will be largely determined by whether they feel that they are full participants in all phases of the Iwokrama Rain Forest Program (IRFP).

<sup>6</sup> (92-1201-13) *Community involvement in health programming, a government and non-government perspective: Udaipur District, Rajasthan, India*, University of Guelph

<sup>7</sup> (92-1021-40) *Environmental sanitation and hygiene: A study of behavioral risk factors in the transmission of water and sanitation-related infectious diseases among the Zoque-Popolucas, Mexico*, Carleton University

<sup>8</sup> (93-1201-11) *The indigenous agroforestry system in Zimbabwe: Is it sustainable? A study of communal villages, incorporating and evaluating participatory methods*, University of Toronto

<sup>9</sup> (94-1200-36) *Participatory rural appraisal in Guyana - identifying the communication needs of Amerindians*, UQAM

- **Cathy Blacklock**<sup>10</sup> recorded that trust and confidence were important to the subjects of her research in Guatemala.

They were willing to talk to me but the information they imparted was selective. The perception that the activists had of me crucially affected my ability to do research.

She recorded hours of taped interviews with women to study her theory that democratization is the political manifestation of the crisis of capitalism and the capitalist class which emerged in the late 1970s and deepened in the 1980s. She felt that visible political activities of the popular movement were “only the tip of the iceberg.”

They feel that what democracy does exist in Guatemala is the direct result of the struggle of the popular movement and that their politicization emerged out of the necessity to survive in the context of the socio-economic crisis.

- **Colin Millette**<sup>11</sup> researched water resource utilization by marginalized groups (poor and women) and how they may be empowered to determine the direction of their development through appropriate management of the resource. He learned to speak Bahasa Indonesian during three years as a CUSO volunteer. He suggests that community management is distinguished from community participation in that the beneficiaries of a water supply system have the responsibility, authority and control over the system.

**c) Going through the “right channels” to gain permission and establish rapport**

Obtaining permission up front from the appropriate officials, learning the local language and culture of the people are all important factors in conducting successful field research. Not to do so often imposes major delays in starting field research as a number of YCRA recipients working in Indonesia have discovered. Establishing rapport and gaining trust can take time.

- **Christina Moffat**<sup>12</sup> had to overcome the suspicions of a carpet factory manager because a German television team had been around earlier filming a documentary on child labour.
- **Ellen Hagerman** spent months living with and gaining the trust of Amerindian villagers in Guyana. She brought photos of her previous work with villages in Indonesia and Africa and found that the villagers enjoyed seeing the photos and noted similarities in village life and landscape.

The process has promoted a valuable and informative exchange of information. The photos seemed to also provide some reassurance to the Amerindian villagers that I was ready and willing to live with them.

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<sup>10</sup> (91-1025-12) *Women's political participation in the context of democratization: The case of Guatemala*, Carleton University

<sup>11</sup> (92-1201-33) *Assessing the role of women in a community management approach for the planning and implementation of domestic water supplies in Sulawesi, Indonesia*, University of Guelph

<sup>12</sup> (94-1200-11) *Working women: The productive and reproductive roles of women working in the carpet-making industry in Kathmandu, Nepal*, McMaster University

She lived with a host family in Surama, a Guyanese village without electricity, sleeping in a hammock and working side by side with the villagers and participating in the day-to-day life (church, school and social events). She developed an attitude of openness and flexibility as well as a willingness to learn and try new things.

By setting realistic goals and being slow and patient about acquainting myself with villagers and interviewing them was a key ingredient to what I deemed to be a successful research experience.

At the outset she was concerned about the effect which living with one family might have on her rapport with the other villagers. She also measured the methodological limitations of research which, she notes, is “a Western concept” and felt it was

essential to consider the biases within the concepts and tools which may limit effectiveness and to look for opportunities to mitigate these biases.

Although some villagers were reluctant to be interviewed, she was told by those she found most difficult to interview that they “enjoyed my style of visit and found me to be non-threatening and unassuming.” They said that she “didn’t behave like some outsiders which acted as though they were better than the Amerindians and therefore did not have the time to just sit and chat.”

She found that humour and laughter served to mitigate differences.

I am interested in exploring the use of humour as a way to traverse cultural barriers to find common links with people of different cultures because I found it was through laughter and joking that I was best able to be accepted, particularly by those who were uncomfortable or unable to speak English.

#### **d) Contributing to the target community/focus group**

Many awardees commented on their desire to contribute something to the participants of their study, since they felt that they were benefiting more from the experience than they were “giving back”.

- Some awardees such as *Ellen Hagerman* and *Peter Berti*<sup>13</sup> took photos and sent copies back to their research participants. Mr Berti also shared feedback on the health status of Andean farmers and their families, so they could assess the quality of their water supply and learn appropriate treatment. He paid villagers for their participation - adults the equivalent of \$1.70 per interview (70 cents for children) as payment for disruption of their work day. A physician he met also expressed an interest in helping with future studies.
- *Christina Moffat* helped participants in Nepal get treatment for parasites in return for getting permission to take stool samples. She also shared the findings of the children’s health survey with the mothers.

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<sup>13</sup> (93-1201-23) *Dietary adequacy and its relationship to anthropometric status in a highland Ecuadorian community*, University of Guelph

They were enthusiastic to have their children measured, interested in knowing their children's weight in kilograms and were eager to participate in the survey.

- **Olaf Juergensen**<sup>14</sup> wanted to allow the voices of the Mozambican refugees he worked with to be heard by having his research “creatively contribute to the theoretical debate in migration studies and social relationship of production and reproduction.” He feels that the complexities, strategies and actions while they were displaced will be better comprehended. Over a million Mozambican refugees fled to Malawi during the course of the civil war in Mozambique. A large number of refugees returned home prior to the resolution of the conflict. He wanted to research “why people are willing to risk their lives by returning to an unarticulated future in their country of origin.”

- **Carolyn Macdonald**<sup>15</sup> provided a bar of soap per week to the caregivers of the malnourished children she was studying in Malawi. She wanted to try and control a major compounding factor on her main outcome variable, weight gain.

Diarrhea is a constant problem as is poor sanitation. Families are very poor and don't have money for soap for clothes - diapers and panties - even for washing dishes. They have no soap, let alone for washing hands. When the children get diarrhea, their weight drops.

A soap company in Blantyre donated some of the soap and the YCRA staff allowed her to include soap as an item on her budget. She also constructed a drying rack for dishes outside the ward and purchased grass mats for the study participants so that they would not be sitting on dirt/sand outside the building “(where others had passed stools), play in the dirt and put their hands in their mouths.”

She hired extension workers to provide nutrition education and homecare workers to give sewing and knitting lessons to caregivers of the children she was studying. She organized a play group for the children and obtained donated toys. She also had weekly staff meetings with all the staff in the ward and with clinical officers to keep them informed of the progress of the study.

Others were not sure what their contribution actually amounted to.

- **Dan Paradis**<sup>16</sup> was considered with a lot of suspicion by his research group, the Lauje people in Indonesia. He had to explain to elders that he was there to learn, not to conscript them into forced labour as the Dutch had done many years ago. In the

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<sup>14</sup> (92-1021-37) *Peasants on the periphery: A geohistory of rural change in Mozambique 1960-92*, Queen's University

<sup>15</sup> (94-1200-15) *Zinc deficiency and growth faltering in rural southern Malawian infants and modifications of local weaning foods to combat deficiency*, University of Guelph

<sup>16</sup> (94-1200-14) *An agroecosystems approach to local resettlement and in situ development in central Sulawesi*, University of Guelph

introduction to his thesis he thanked the Lauje:

From them I learned more about life than I can put into words. I feel like I have taken so much from them and can only hope that they have some good memories of my stories, and their own stories to share about the 'big white guy' who was always wiping out down the mountains.

- **Ellen Hagerman** worked side by side with the villagers in Guyana and she found that “it was quite meaningful and significant to the villagers that I was willing to do the same work and I came to appreciate how hard they work.” She wanted to have a better picture of what the villagers are understanding from outsiders and to identify some of the potential barriers to understanding. She compared anecdotes and general perceptions that Amerindians told her with what she heard from staff at Iwokrama, which is an IDRC-assisted project. For example, she heard that hunting restrictions were imposed the villagers who wanted to hunt on Iwokrama land.

The other version of the story is that some Amerindian staff were using the headlights of the Iwokrama vehicles to attract wildlife out of the forest so that they could hunt them easily. Comparing stories is valuable to hear how Amerindians have interpreted particular events involving Iwokrama both directly and indirectly.

Before she returned to Canada, she shared the findings of her research with the village leader who read it and said that it was honest and useful.

He also commented that many of the observations could only be made by an outsider. He said he intended to present the results to the villagers.

- **Cathy Blacklock** offered her project proposal skills to the women's groups she was studying in Guatemala as a way of giving something back. They had tried to involve her directly in their decision-making but she felt that providing her technical skills was preferable.

Sometimes it is expected that equipment brought over for the research should be donated to the affiliate organization.

- There is a letter in **Danièle Bélanger's** <sup>17</sup> file from the Institute of Sociology in Hanoi stating that she donated her computer, modem and printer to the Institute.
- But in **Peter Berti's** case he was told he may keep his equipment or donate, as he wished.

It is not clear from the files studied what the YCRA policy is.

- **Yolande Geadah** <sup>18</sup> stated that the notion of “empowerment” is central to her research so

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<sup>17</sup> (94-1200-25) *Des générations au cœur du changement : Sexualité et santé reproductive des jeunes urbains au Vietnam*, Université de Montréal

<sup>18</sup> (93-1201-19) *Étude sur l'évaluation de l'impact des projets de développement sur les rapport sociaux de sexes*, UQAM

the participants “have control”. Her premise was that although measures have been put in place to ensure that women benefit equally from development projects, results obtained rarely matched the intended outcome. An evaluation of the social impact of these programs represents a chance to measure them. Her impression was that those responsible do not have sufficient idea of the importance of the role which women play in Africa.

- **Lori Bell**,<sup>19</sup> who previously worked for UNHCR with Afghani refugees in Pakistan and with MSF in Ethiopia, found that the impact of female community health workers is more apparent than that of males. “Older female community health workers (40-50) with prior experience in midwifery are likely to be the most effective in a Pakistani context.” Direct beneficiaries of her research were expected to be the Aga Khan University (AKU), Health Service Planning and communities in Pakistan and elsewhere. She stated that she “would look more closely at program effectiveness due to the need by AKU to plan to significantly upscale their primary health care activities in Pakistan.” UNHCR also supported her by providing office space, security clearance and staff assistance.

#### e) Outputs of the awardees: Papers/newspaper articles/seminars

Apart from producing their theses or dissertations, many awardees produced technical papers or presentations, some with colleagues, on their research.

- **Patricia Spittal** contributed to a number of papers chronicling the lives of some of the female villagers most adversely affected by HIV.
- **Anne Latendresse**<sup>20</sup> presented several papers in Strasbourg and Tour. She was also involved in two round table discussions which she found interesting in that it encouraged interaction between the researchers and the public. She presented her theory, the approaches she adopted and answered questions raised in response.
- **Ellen Hagerman** produced video footage and a feature article about her experience in Guyana appeared in the *Montreal Gazette*.
- **Cathy Blacklock** received permission from the organizations she worked with to disseminate her findings through publication. She prepared a conference paper entitled *Contesting Democratization in Guatemala: Women's political organizing for Human Rights*.

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<sup>19</sup> (93-1201-12) *Are community health workers effective in the delivery of primary health care in developing countries? A critical literature review and protocol formulation, Pakistan*, McGill University

<sup>20</sup> (94-1200-37) *Dynamique palestinienne et destructure-restructuration de Jérusalem-est 1967-1994*, UQAM

- **Kofi Barimah**<sup>21</sup> and Geoffrey Nelson, Ph.D had a paper published in the International Quarterly of Community Health Education (Vol. 14 (2) 1993-94) entitled *Empowerment in a Supplementary Food Project in a Rural Community in Ghana*.
- **David McDonald** wrote a series of articles with such imaginative titles as *It's not easy being brown* (for Southern Africa Report), *I'll have some clean environment please* (for African Wildlife), *Black Workers, Brown Burden: Municipal Workers and the Environment* (for South African Labour Bulletin), and *Fried Green Bureaucrats: Local Government and the Environment* (for Africa Wildlife).
- **Christian Da Silva**<sup>22</sup> was invited to submit a paper for possible inclusion in a book entitled *Traditional Knowledge in Tanzania* to be edited and coordinated by Dr. H. Sosovele from the Institute of Resource Assessment, University of Dar es Salaam. He was also asked to present a paper at a conference entitled *Research Priorities for Environmental Education in Africa* in Arusha in July 1994.
- **Anna-Marie Ball** presented her preliminary findings at the Sixth International Congress on Women's Health Issues in Botswana June 29-July 2, 1994 attended by 250 participants from 22 countries. She also attended the Methodology Seminar at the National Institute of Research on September 2, 1994.
- **Danièle Bélanger**, along with fellow researcher Khuat Thu Hong, presented a report to UNFPA entitled *Youth, premarital sexuality and abortion in the Hanoi Region: Results of a survey*. She also wrote a project proposal to the Institute of Sociology in Hanoi entitled *Proposal for a research project on single women seeking abortions in Hanoi, Vietnam*.

#### f) Expertise gained by the awardees themselves

Awardees consistently reported that the YCRA offered them the opportunity to gain skills in research, management and administration which they would otherwise not have had.

- **Andres Sanchez-Bain** stated that the multidisciplinary nature and participatory approaches presented me with rich opportunities to learn from the team's experiences and issues related with sustainable development and priorities and needs for survival of disadvantaged populations.
- From his research on the impact of a nutrition centre on a specific community in Ghana, **Kofi Barimah** "learned that adult learning is different from child learning."

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<sup>21</sup> (92-1201-15) *An outcome and process evaluation for the program of action to mitigate the social cost of adjustment (PAMSCAD) project in the Brong-Ahafo Region of Ghana*, Wilfrid Laurier University

<sup>22</sup> (93-1201-15) *Environment education in Tanzania - making a case of traditional environment knowledge (TEK) in the life of secondary schools*, Carleton University

- **Archana Dwivedi** found that the requirements for regular reporting helped her re-examine her objectives:

I felt the requests for a mid-term and final report were an excellent means of re-examining the objectives of my research. I also felt that the reports were not hampered by a strict format. This encourages originality and this is a more valuable output.

Ms Dwivedi also felt that her experience

taught me about adaptation, listening values and confidence...practical skills such as budgeting, organizing, interviewing, surveying etc. are all essential for a career in international development. Working with people-oriented research has taught me to be flexible and organized enough in order to change plans without a moment's hesitation. Above all, this experience has reinforced confidence within myself.

They also learned much about their own abilities to function in difficult circumstances and to accommodate unexpected delays and changes. A sense of humour, laughter and good-natured joking help too, as **Ellen Hagerman** noted in her reports.

- **David Rowbotham** learned a great deal about the roles and practises of development agencies. He also gained a better understanding of the problems and needs of the local people of the Himalayan region and gained practical and theoretical experience in the development of a GIS database.

The traditional methods of coping (with natural hazards) have solid foundations having evolved over long periods of time and therefore are of great value. Development, however, is adding a new wrinkle to the traditional situation.. Tourism is placing tremendous pressures on the environment.

- **Cathy Blacklock** learned that the women's group she was observing in Guatemala had problems in coalition-building and that their family obligations served as a barrier to their politicization. She noted that one of the strongest and most dynamic groups was CONAVIGUA, a group of indigenous widows.

#### g) Flexibility of the Program

Almost every YCRA awardees makes mention of the high quality of administrative services they received during their tenure. Distance, lack of communication facilities prevented some from submitting their interim reports on time, but they report that the Awards Officer was very flexible and accepting of these difficulties. Alterations to workplans and budgets were also handled effectively. Not only is the communication process (fax, phone, e-mail, letter) employed by the YCRA flexible, but the administration of the program itself is also very flexible and this is perhaps its greatest strength.

Some awardees are able to incorporate some previous and ongoing research experience into their YCRA.

- **Patricia Spittal** was already involved in an HIV research project supported by IDRC



before she received an award. The program allowed her to incorporate some of her previous research experience in Uganda into her YCRA timeframe.

- **Sherry Yano**<sup>23</sup> wrote:

I am extremely grateful to the people at IDRC for their support and flexibility in administering this award. They have allowed changes to the program timelines and have made suggestions to make the research more inclusive and effective.

Others, upon arriving in the host country, realize that their approach to their research methodology is inappropriate and rework their proposals.

- **Andres Sanchez-Bain** changed his budget and approach to his research in Mexico. He decided to do less testing due to the fact that the materials he had ordered did not arrive in good time. As a result, he placed more importance on social aspects of his study. Because he organized his research in specific three-month timeframes, he was able to serve as an IDRC consultant when he was not actually conducting research. This flexibility allowed him to remain within the rule which prevents individuals from having more than one IDRC contract/assignment at a time.

As long as the awardee's supervisor provides written support for the changes or revision, the YCRA accommodates these alterations.

- **Dan Paradis** anticipated using Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) techniques in his research with the Lauje people in Sulawesi, Indonesia. But he was viewed with suspicion by the people who thought he was a government-sent official come to resettle them somewhere else. Mr Paradis switched to RRA techniques instead. He also encountered a language barrier, even though he was somewhat familiar with Bahasa Indonesian. The Lauje spoke their own language so he hired an assistant who could speak both languages.

Yet other awardees found themselves behind in their proposed timeframe for a number of reasons, such as severe delays in receiving research materials and equipment from another country.

- This was the case for **Gaetan Desmarais**<sup>24</sup> who needed to construct screenhouses for his agricultural experiments in Bénin.

In most cases the YCRA Awards Officer allowed for extensions in terms of time but not in terms of funding. The rules regarding funding and budgets are adhered to quite stringently but are softened on occasion to provide appropriate exceptions.

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<sup>23</sup> (94-1200-17) *Alternative visions of development in rural Thailand*, University of Guelph

<sup>24</sup> (92-1201-22) *Thermal characteristics of various physical configurations of a screenhouse in African tropical climatic conditions*, Bénin, McGill University

- **Carolyn MacDonald** successfully contended that buying soap for her target participants was essential to improve the hygiene of her target group, malnourished children in Malawi. Diarrhea caused the children to lose weight, which impacted negatively on her study group.
- **Vanessa Clive**<sup>25</sup> appreciated YCRA staff's flexibility in allowing her to submit reports later than planned partly because she had some personal problems (loss of her daughter's caregiver through a car accident) and changes to her original schedule.  
The Centre responded flexibly to my requests regarding certain readjustments to the schedule of field trips which I had submitted originally and seemed to be genuinely concerned to help make my research work successful.
- **Anne Latendresse** found the YCRA staff easy to contact, willing to provide extra information, and "understanding of time and other constraints when one travels and works in difficult circumstances (political conflicts) which existed in the occupied territories."
- **Robert Davidson**,<sup>26</sup> who carried out his research in Ecuador while on a study leave from his work as a scientific advisor at the Montreal Biodome, also found the YCRA administrative process very flexible. He was able to have the costs of soil samples tested in Canada covered by the award even though the award usually covers costs incurred in the developing country where the research is being carried out.

But there are limits to this flexibility and he found that some rules cannot be altered. He requested that the award funds be sent directly to the Biodome but was told this was not possible since the award is given to an individual, not an institution. When he requested that one funding installment be postponed until the next fiscal year (because he would have to pay \$6,000 in taxes) he was reminded that he had set the payment schedule and that YCRA could not change it. In fact most awardees do not have trouble with taxes since the award is tax-deductible.

- **Marc Roulet**<sup>27</sup> came across the same rule when he asked that his funding be sent directly into an UQAM account. He thought that because his research project was associated with an IDRC-supported UQAM project, this could be done. However, this too was not possible and funding was sent to an account in his name.

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<sup>25</sup> (94-1200-18) *Changes in the U.S. innovation system affecting maize biotechnology research and their implications for CIMMYT*, Queen's University

<sup>26</sup> (94-1200-16) *Sylviculture en région tropicale humide sur sols dégradés*, Ecuador, UQAM

<sup>27</sup> (94-1200-26) *Biogéochimie du mercure dans la vallée du Tapajos, Amazonie Brésilienne*, UQAM

**h) Career Choices**

Awardees for the most part aspire to careers where they can use their research skills in a teaching or research capacity.

- **Patricia Rodney** <sup>28</sup> stated that her long-term career goal is to “influence health policy by being active at the grassroots and policy levels.” She found during her research in Barbados that “very little attempt if any is made to seriously link findings of illness and ill health with socio-economic and political conditions within the society.  
..My research enters a new paradigm: it removes women’s health from a totally medical model (illness) to one of wellness and empowerment.

In terms of her career, she noted:

Upon completion of my Ph.D, I will become one of the few researchers to have explored the State and Women in the Caribbean. This will no doubt open consulting opportunities in the future as others seek to gain this knowledge.

She stated that the doctorate “will give me the credibility and expertise needed to challenge the male-dominated health care system as well as give respect and acknowledgement to women in the health care system.” In 1994 Ms Rodney worked for the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

- **Alex MacKenzie** noted in his final report that he was “...able to make the vital contacts necessary for a long-term career in development.” In a letter, Mr MacKenzie outlined his job as a project officer with UNICEF in Ghana, (subsequent to his YCRA tenure) showing that a sense of humour is a pre-requisite for working overseas:  
Ghanaian counterparts share at base a resounding patience and belief that the outsider will eventually stop pestering them and go home. A failure to grasp this basic tenet of cross-cultural management and the temptation to try to own and achieve too much can lead to a lot of aggravation.
- **Patricia Spittal** wants to contribute to applied research that is aimed at improving the lives of women and children in less developed countries. She wants to obtain a teaching and research position.
- **Vanessa Clive**, who according to Dr. David A. Wolfe, Associate Professor of University of Toronto’s Department of Political Science, “is one of the best organized and most methodical doctoral students I have worked with,” feels that the result of her research will be an invaluable addition to our knowledge of innovation in the field of biotechnology.  
I remain very interested in factors driving development in the application of biotechnologies and would like to remain involved in this area.
- **Yolande Geadah** aspires to be a consultant in international development with

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<sup>28</sup> (91-1025-17) *The health care system of the Caribbean and its impact on women’s health*, University of Toronto

specialization in gender and development - particularly in training and evaluation. She also planned to teach and continue research.

- **Peter di Cenzo**,<sup>29</sup> who speaks Mandarin, aims to pursue a career in academia with a specific interest in conducting soil erosion and land management research in developing Pacific Rim countries.
- **Edward Osei-Kwadwo**<sup>30</sup> hopes to teach at the university level and carry on research in areas of international relations and development, comparative politics and political economics of development and under-development.
- **Mutindi Ndunda's**<sup>31</sup> career objectives include tertiary teaching in women's studies, science education, policy issues and research methodology, to do more research in the area of gender and development and  
to consult with international development organizations and other NGOs attempting to address the issues of poverty in developing countries.
- **Lori Bell** hopes  
to work towards improving the quality, appropriacy and timely distribution of epidemiological data both in the health sector and related fields.
- **Allen Kwabiah**<sup>32</sup> reported that he was more confident and familiar with the challenges of research into finding alternatives to slash and burn agricultural in the tropics and wants to become a teacher in a developing country.

As noted, while most awardees mentioned their career aspirations in terms of remaining in research and teaching/training at the university level, it is not documented in the files whether they do so. This of course is due to the fact that it takes a number of years after their tenure for awardees to write their theses and begin to apply for jobs.

At least one awardee, **Camilla Cockerton**,<sup>33</sup> who did her research in England, Botswana and

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<sup>29</sup> (92-1201-38) *Tunnel erosion as a contributor to basin sediment and water yield in a small catchment, Loess Plateau, China*, University of Toronto

<sup>30</sup> (93-1201-16) *The political sustainability of structural adjustment programmes: Ghana 1982-1993*, Carleton University

<sup>31</sup> (93-1201-13) *Education development policies: The experiences of the women of Kilome, Kenya*, University of British Columbia

<sup>32</sup> (94-1200-12) *Synchrony and localization of nitrogen (N) release and uptake for maize production in the African tropics*, University of Guelph

<sup>33</sup> (91-1025-24) *Geography of women's migration to South Africa in colonial and post-colonial Botswana*, Queen's University

South Africa applied to emigrate to New Zealand. Her file does not say if she was successful.

#### i) Conducting Research in the North/Highlights of a Special Case

In 1993 provision was made to enable a few awardees to conduct research in the North on issues that affect sustainable and equitable development in the developing world.

- **Fred Gale**<sup>34</sup> was the first awardee to conduct such research. He travelled to nine countries in order to research the work of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), an organization created under the terms of the 1983 International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA). He stated that the reason for ITTO's poor performance was due to the disharmony of interests between First and Third World States.

First World states wish to preserve tropical forests but are unwilling to provide sufficient compensation for foregone revenues. Third World states, in the absence of compensation, continue to exploit their forests to earn foreign exchange, create employment, provide government revenue and fund their development programs.

He asked the question, "Why has international cooperation in the form of ITTO been unable to protect the earth's tropical rain forests and ensure their sustainable development?"

In order to understand the failure of international cooperation to create an environmental regime in tropical forestry, we must understand not only the important physical and social functions of tropical forestry but also the political and economic processes that have led to increased deforestation in the 20th century.

His file contains many letter of affiliation and cooperation since he was travelling to London, Gland (Switzerland), Rome, Yokohama, Den Haag, Brussels, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, San Francisco and Washington to conduct interviews and review literature. He had anticipated the non-availability of access to government and industry files and found that the non-governmental agencies he visited generally had such information. He was overwhelmed by the sheer amount of information available. Getting his target questions right was

a case of the chicken and the egg - the more one knows the better one can target questions to obtain further, more precise information.

Mr Gale, who had worked overseas with APSO, VSO and WHO received a lot of support and encouragement from IDRC experts. He found Dr. Ron Ayling in CIFOR and Dr. John Graham extremely helpful in offering advice, in establishing contacts and in facilitating the research process. In an evaluation report, John Graham anticipated the difficulty of arranging the numerous interviews and visits to a large number of countries. Although the trip "was extremely tiring, probably too long," Mr Gale does not feel it was possible to shorten it and still achieve results.

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<sup>34</sup> (93-1201-22) *The political economy of international environment cooperation: The role and effectiveness of the International Timber Organization (ITTO)*, Carleton University

Over 50 formal interviews were conducted and he credits the advance contacts made for the success he achieved. "Without these advance contacts, the research effect would have been significantly less fruitful." He also reported that prior knowledge of Indonesian Bahasa and Malay Bahasa was extremely helpful.

He felt that he was well received by everyone to whom he spoke.

There is a very high level of interest in this research project. They have a large body of information within their files not only on their own efforts to influence the international policy formation process but also on the efforts of governments and industry.

Affiliation with host institutions was a crucial component in the field research, particularly in lending credibility to the research effort, identifying local contacts, access to research material and receiving the necessary support when arriving in foreign countries. He wanted to be affiliated with reputable and mainstream organizations in order

to avoid being typecast as either an environment and development radical or as a captured member of the state (particularly the developed state) bureaucracy.

He wrote in an interim report:

The documentation gathered to date and the interviews conducted indicate that the environmental and human rights community has been frozen out of the inter-regional formation process, and that a blocking coalition has formed within the ITTO which ensures that principles, norms, rules and procedures of the emerging tropical timber trade regime continue to privilege utilization over conservation.

The other awardee who completed part of her research in the North is *Vanessa Clive*. Her research was entitled *Changes in the U.S. innovation system affecting maize biotechnology research and their implications for CIMMYT* (Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maiz y Trigo, Mexico).

## ***ii. DIFFICULTIES IDENTIFIED BY AWARDEES***

### **a) Bureaucratic: Formalities required by host government or affiliated institution**

Obtaining research permits required to conduct research may be easy in one country -

*Camilla Cockerton* received her research permit for Botswana before she left Canada - and extremely time-consuming in another.

- *David Rowbotham* experienced “red tape” in getting a non-tourist visa even though IDRC has an special agreement with the Government of Nepal covering research personnel from Canada.
- *Alex MacKenzie*, an MSc student at University of Guelph noted in his second interim report that he had to fly to Singapore to get his research permit.  
Field work is not possible without official recognition and receipt of support letters from the three levels of government.
- *Dan Paradis* wrote six pages of instructions for YCRA on how to obtain a research permit in Indonesia.
- *Andres Sanchez-Bain* had difficulties extracting his research equipment from Customs in Mexico “unless a bribe was given.”
- *Judith Stamp* also experienced some delay in getting a research permit for Zimbabwe.
- *Peter Berti* had trouble clearing equipment through customs in Ecuador.
- *Dodo Motsisi*<sup>35</sup> gave a seminar to academic staff on her study plans, shared with them the study on the needs of women and children under emergency situations and prepared a bibliography on refugee students for the School of Social Work at the University of Zimbabwe while she waited for her research permit from the government. Appointments that were made for interviews sometimes did not take place because “people were not there.”

As already noted, the assistance provided by affiliate institutions vary from very little to considerable.

- Some awardees such as *Christina Moffat* were creative in finding new institutions or groups with whom to form a relationship when the need arose.

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<sup>35</sup> (91-1025-14) *The impact of refugee aid on refugee vulnerable groups: A socio-economic and demographic study of Tongogara, Mazowe and Nyangombe camps in Zimbabwe*, University of Manitoba

## b) Cultural: Gaining the confidence of the target community/group

In some countries where the people have already been studied by outsiders, problems can arise which make it difficult or impossible to conduct research.

- *Edward Osei-Kwadwo* found that people in Ghana were wary and unwilling to talk.
- *Carolyn MacDonald* had difficulties working in her initial target community in Malawi because the villagers thought that the blood she was taking from them would end up being sent to Canada and as a result their babies would die. She changed focus to a hospital setting where extracting blood was more usual and acceptable.

Most found that contacting key informants, administrators, chiefs etc, and explaining their research and sharing findings with community was most important.

- *Christina Moffat* experienced this in Nepal where she was studying the health of women and their children involved in the carpet manufacturing sector, both in factories and in their homes.
- In Botswana, before conducting interviews, *Camilla Cockerton*, a Ph.D student from Queen's University, discussed her research with the district commissioner, chief and headmen.  
They granted me permission to visit various villages and to interview elderly women although the government had already granted me this privilege. The local authorities appreciated this gesture.
- *Patricia Spittal* had to gain the confidence of other research team members in Uganda who spoke of their initial tentativeness adjusting to a study that combined qualitative (ethnographic) with participatory design elements. They asked questions such as "What was all this information for and how will it be used?" She had to explain the significance of this information to the project.
- *Colin Millette* was assisted by two female and one male counterparts during his research. "To get close to the women you must first get close to the men, particularly in an Indonesian context." His female counterparts were  
key to the implementation of this research given the gender focus of this study and the maleness of the researcher himself. To circumvent undue reactions and misconceptions the researcher has opted to select two female counterparts out of respect for the culture's sense of propriety. Also the Indonesian culture places greater emphasis on group interaction above interactions between individuals.

Knowing/learning the local language can be very effective.

- *Alex McKenzie* spent his first four weeks in Indonesia learning Bahasa Indonesian, and studied the language for a further week to learn terms and expressions tailored specifically to his research. Although the award does not cover the cost of language



training, some awardees felt that learning a language would make them more effective researchers.

#### c) Illness

Although some awardees reported illness either personally or within their study group, no long-term effects, either in health or in delays to the research process were noted.

- *Andres Sanchez-Bain* was ill with hemorrhagic Dengue Fever in Mexico for three weeks.
- *Patricia Spittal* mentioned that various members of the research team in Uganda came down with malaria.
- *Peter Berti* found the participants of his water quality study in Ecuador hospitable (providing food, drinks) but he and his team had a few bouts of diarrhea as a result. He also experienced “many colds and infections maybe due to the cold and dampness of the study area.”
- An outbreak of cholera in a Mozambican refugee camp in Zimbabwe prevented *Dodo Motsisi* from visiting the camp to conduct her research.
- *Patricia Spittal's* father became ill and she had to return home to Canada temporarily.

#### d) Slower pace/delays

A number of recipients reported that work was progressing at a slower pace than expected. This was true even for those who have already lived/travelled overseas.

- *Colin Millette* found that delays in his YCRA funding put his study two months behind. He used the delay to prepare water infrastructure and land use maps for his case study areas and got personal loans from friends. He suggested that in the case of delay in disbursement of funds, YCRA should set up an emergency fund so that funds can be made available. This, however, is not possible because no funds may be issued until awardees sign YCRA agreements with IDRC. He also experienced difficulties using RAISON, the software designed by the University of Guelph. It proved to be too advanced for the computer capabilities of CARE, one of his affiliates in Indonesia.
- *Gaetan Desmarais* had to import equipment and materials into Bénin to construct screenhouses for his experiments. He lost a lot of time due to slow delivery and had to extend the timeframe of his research. He received an extension beyond his projected timeframe but no extra money since he had already received the maximum amount of \$40,000. He originally started his doctoral program in 1985 but took a leave of absence to become involved with greenhouse technology in the private sector. His activities brought him to the Institute of Tropical Agriculture, (ITTA in Bénin and Nigeria) which

became his affiliate for his YCRA research. Previously he worked on a cassava pest control program with ITTA which was supported by IDRC.

- **Olaf Juergensen's** YCRA contract was delayed (due to funding shortages in his program year) until October 1993. He started his research at the Refugee Studies Program, University of Oxford. In December 1993, there was a general strike in Malawi - trouble between the Government of Malawi and the army. He noted that the General Peace Accord between Frelimo and Renamo was the most important event since he started his research.
- **Patricia Rodney** experienced a slow start because all appointments were scheduled through the Ministry of Health.
- **Cathy Blacklock** reported delays caused by the need to set up "the necessary degree of trust and confidence with my research subjects." She also found that at one point the women expected her to get involved in decision-making, a problem since she felt that she was an observer. She solved this problem by offering them her project design and technical skills. She felt that gave something back to the people she studied.

However, awardees who have considerably more experience in developing countries did not seem to be affected adversely by these sorts of problems.

- **Anna-Marie Ball** stated that she had very few expectations when she arrived so that any help she received "was considered a bonus."

#### e) **The Weather: Beyond one's control**

In some technical research, rainy season/dry season testing is required. Poor seasons can often interrupt or delay the research.

- **David Rowbotham** experienced this in Nepal. His supervisor wrote in a progress report:  
The field research season was not particularly successful from the perspective of gathering stream sedimentation and erosion rate data. A second field trip during the rainy season in 1993 will be necessary to remedy this potential deficiency in his information base.
- "Rain, rain, rain," notes **Dan Paradis** with some frustration, as the rainy season in Indonesia continued well into September. The rain made travelling difficult.  
None of the local people would leave their homes during the heavy rains. Therefore research had to wait it out.

On the other hand, for **Peter di Cenzo** in China, the weather cooperated and field work completed on time.

#### f) Lack of communication

When research is being conducted in an isolated area, there are problems of lack of communication, infrequent postal services, no electricity or clean water etc.

- **Peter Berti** reported that his team had some problems in his area of Ecuador due to the “unique Spanish spoken here”. He also found it difficult to recruit subjects for his research “because we were stranger”. In the end he decided to pay villagers who took part in his research to compensate them for time spent away from their normal work.

Language barriers also presented problems for other researchers.

- **Dan Paradis** knew some Bahasa Indonesian but not the local dialect in his study area. He hired an assistant who knew Bahasa Indonesian as well as the Lauje language.

Distance caused problems for others.

- **Edward Osei-Kwadwo** had difficulty interviewing his target group because they were dispersed over a wide area.  
The rural middle class and the ordinary people who are the principal subjects of my study are dispersed throughout the city and village, living in one and working in another.

He also experienced delays in receiving reliable Ghanaian government records which made systematic data gathering very difficult, stressful, costly and time-consuming. He reported that he was only able to do half of his field work. He applied for and received another award in 1994 in order to complete his research.

#### g) Personal Safety and Security during Civil Unrest/Outbreak of Violence

It is not known whether any YCRA recipient has had to be evacuated due to instability at their research site, or illness, for that matter. Some files contain letters suggesting that awardees register with the nearest Canadian Embassy/High Commission. This should be mandatory.

- **Andres Sanchez-Bain** listed a number of constraints to his research in Mexico:  
Armed insurrection of indigenous communities in the neighbouring state of Chiapas, assassination of the presidential candidate from the ruling party, social unrest in the neighbouring state of Tabasco, and social unrest in the study region due to fraudulent municipal elections, collapse of the economy, an epidemic of Dengue Fever were some of the political, health and economic problems in the area that marked the study period.

Robberies occurred regularly along the road connecting the Sierra to the nearest cities, where water testing samples would have to be shipped. Therefore Mr Sanchez-Bain also decided to drop the idea of taking samples to city labs for safety considerations.

- **Anne Latendresse**, who was studying the contribution made by Palestinians to the process of destruction and reconstruction of Jerusalem-est, lived in Ramallah. She reported that the situation was extremely sensitive.

A Ramallah, où j'habite, nous avons eu douze journées consécutives de couvre-feu ce qui signifie que nous ne pouvions sortir ni de jour, ni de nuit. Il va de soi que ces conditions de vie difficiles affectent mon rythme de travail.

A travel advisory issued on February 25, 1994 by the President of IDRC to all staff stated:

Due to the unstable conditions of the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza and the recommendations of the Regional Director in MERO, I wish to ensure that no IDRC staff travel to that area until such time as conditions improve.

These kinds of recommendations are shared with YCRA awardees when they are in affected areas. However, there appears to be no example of any awardee being required to leave a war zone or forced to abandon their research for reasons of security.

- **David McDonald** who was in South Africa during the build-up to the first national elections in South Africa in 1994 noted:

There is a lot to be said for being in South Africa at this historic time (March 1994). I am learning a lot about everything from constitution-making to violence. As for the violence I have unfortunately been somewhat restricted in where I can go. For the run-up to the election at the end of April, I have decided to curtail visiting all of the potentially problematic areas.

- **Peter Berti** also reported some difficulties due to the civil unrest in Ecuador throughout the duration of his research project.

#### h) Coping with the unexpected

Some problems were more unusual than those already listed above.

- **Mutindi Ndunda** did not expect her research on the role of women in Kenya to be construed as political and have special branch personnel visiting the women's groups collaborating with her.
- **Lori Bell** had her computer disk erased at the airport in Pakistan. Although she had permission to visit Afghan refugees, poor security conditions at the time of study limited mobility. Ms Bell, who was studying the impact and effectiveness of community health workers, also found that open-ended interviewing techniques required more training on the part of research assistants.
- **Dodo Motsisi** "lost" her documents and experienced a delay in replacing them. Entry into one refugee camp was restricted because of an outbreak of cholera.
- In her agroforestry research, **Judith Stamp** had difficulty in translating the names of trees from the Shona language into Latin since names vary from other areas within Zimbabwe.

However, that was not her most challenging problem. In the course of her research, she hired six research assistants, three male, three female. She was accused of poaching the male research assistants from another research project and transportation from *Value of Trees* was revoked temporarily and her affiliation to the University of Zimbabwe was threatened, which might ultimately have resulted in her deportation. Unfortunately for her no mediation was possible and she felt obliged to drop them from her team. The research was completed using the all-women team. She reported:

These events have negatively coloured my attitude toward the potential of conducting truly participatory research. If the power imbalance that outsiders bring to a partnership with local researchers and farmers (through control of purse strings and vehicles) is not acknowledged and addressed, 'participatory research' will remain a nice but meaningless phrase. It may help to make researchers feel better about their activities in a Third World setting but rather than facilitating empowerment....(it) will continue exploitative, top-down relations between the two cultures.

The method of handling the dispute over the research assistants was most detrimental to the conduct of my research and in my opinion, constituted an unfair and unwise use of power. I would like to see a more open and participatory approach to resolving such problems in future.

- **Carolyn MacDonald** also reported the loss of good research project personnel involved in her nutrition research project in Malawi to "higher paying NGOs (UNICEF)."
- **David McDonald** reported delays in finding out about his award because he was already in South Africa but he reports that he did not fall behind in his research.
- **Edward Osei-Kwadwo** discovered some truths about collecting information from participants in spite of being familiar with Ghana, his country of origin:  
Most important was the realization that sample surveys and other quantitative techniques are inappropriate for a study in a situation like Ghana, where people are wary and unwilling to talk. Research has yielded results that I was hitherto unaware of in spite of my 'expertise' on Ghana.
- **Olaf Juergensen**, who had already travelled to Africa on a fact-finding mission before he obtained a YCRA, had his rented car stolen in Maputo where he was conducting research at the University and had to fly back to Malawi.
- Strikes at some Botswana secondary schools interrupted some of **Anna-Marie Ball's** research into the reason why Botswana youth were at high risk of contracting HIV even though reproductive education is available in the community.

#### i) Adjusting the Methodology

Although most students outlined their methodology specifically before they left Canada, many modified them in response to changing field conditions. Most used a combination of both qualitative and quantitative and held meetings, interviews, reviewed literature and conducted case studies.

- **Patricia Rodney**, a Ph.D student from University of Toronto used less structured and open-ended questions with both providers and users of the health care system in Barbados “because it can provide a creative and fertile source of data.”
- **Christian Da Silva** used a variety of tools - site mapping, timelines, trend graphs, photography and video-taping of sites, structured interviews, informal participatory observation, and mailout surveys to Tanzanian NGOs - to research the role that environmental education plays in the conceptualization, implementation and management of community forestry programs.
- **Judith Stamp** found that she had difficulties in satisfactorily reviewing the farm visit interview reports conducted by the research assistants until after the field visit research process was finished. So supervision of report writing was not adequate - some were incomplete thereby reducing the potential for quantitative analysis of the data. She stated that fatigue from managing the organization and care and feeding of the research team in new and unfamiliar circumstances for so many weeks caused some of her problems. It was also “due in part to stress resulting from the Harare-based dispute over the use of the men on the research team.”
- When **Sherry Yano** arrived in Thailand she realized that her initial methodology was too ambitious. After consulting with her supervisor, she decided to use a household survey approach in only one village. She wrote up her initial research theme in the January issue of *Seeds of Peace*.

#### j) Unavailability/shortage of equipment and supplies

Shortages of materials and equipment were noted by many awardees.

- **Carolyn MacDonald** noted that her research was hampered by Mangochi Hospital’s lack of equipment and supplies. She listed shortages of milk powder, oil and sugar to make the high energy milk; firewood to prepare the children’s high energy supplement, *Likumi Phala*; poor kitchen facilities; inadequate number of latrines; non-availability of distilled water; lack of fuel for transport, and inadequate medical personnel to treat the number of children in the nutrition ward for their illnesses. She also observed:  
Mistreatment of mothers in the wards (by hospital or other project staff) leads to dissatisfaction with hospital services and mothers leaving before their children are properly treated.
- **Robert Davidson** brought soil samples from Ecuador to Canada for analysis because he felt he could not have this done successfully in the research country.
- **Anna-Marie Ball** found no qualitative research available in Botswana and noted, “I was on my own.”

- **Janet-Marie Huddle**<sup>36</sup> used a car battery for power to operate equipment needed for her study of pregnant women at risk in Malawi. She had difficulty collecting blood samples (placenta and cord) because very few women delivery in the health centre had worked in. She had to collect samples in the villages instead. The neo-natal mortality rate was around 28 percent.

She set out to assess the nutritional status of rural Malawian women during pregnancy and two weeks post-partum and to investigate the etiology of poor nutritional status of this group. The women had never been studied before so she had to spend time to build up the necessary rapport with traditional authorities and local village health communities. The project used iron supplements from Jamieson, a Windsor firm, according to her supervisor from the University of Guelph, Dr. Rosalind Gibson, Associate Professor of Applied Human Nutrition.

## 2. IDRC COMMUNICATION WITH AWARDEES

Judging from the files studied, awardees were very satisfied with the administration of their awards. They reported that the YCRA staff consistently responded in a timely fashion to questions and requests for assistance made by awardees in the field. Given the wide range of requests and the sometimes difficult communications systems, particularly for awardees who are conducting their research in remote areas, YCRA staff responded with flexibility and patience. For example when requesting late reports or further budget revisions, consideration is made for the delay in mail delivery and funding installments are not held up as a result of the lateness of an interim report. Increasingly, communication is conducted via e-mail where possible.

## 3. COMMUNICATING IDRC EXPERTS' COMMENTS ON PROPOSALS BACK TO CANDIDATES

With the increased input of IDRC experts into the selection of candidates in recent phases of the program, there is a noticable improvement in the feedback that candidates receive from the IDRC experts who have reviewed their proposals. This feedback is usually communicated to the awardees by the YCRA staff in the letter verifying the granting of their award.

- **Fred Gale** received feedback from a number of IDRC experts, some of which he found useful and incorporated into his research methodology. A detailed report of his research is found on page 28 under the heading of *Conducting Research in the North: Highlights of a Special Case*. Many recipients note that they are appreciative of such advice and

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<sup>36</sup> (92-1201-39) *Development of an anthropometric screening tool to identify rural pregnant women at risk to poor pregnancy outcome in southern Malawi*, University of Guelph

incorporate it into their research. Names and contact addresses of IDRC and other experts in their region of research are also given at that time.

- For example, IDRC experts suggested that *Peter Berti*, researching the quality of water in Ecuador, use IDRC water quality monitoring methods and offered him pertinent information.
- *Marc Roulet's* research proposal, on the impact of mineral production activities on health and mineral environmental pollution, was associated with an IDRC-supported project submitted by UQAM and University of Para. The evaluator noted: "It relates directly to high priorities in the CPF (Corporate Program Framework) especially in health and the environment."
- *Sherry Yano's* research proposal, to document the experiences of four Buddhist monks working in rural Thailand, left IDRC evaluators wondering whether the involvement of a religious sector of society (i.e. monks associated with the Thai Inter-Religious Council for Development) "would be perceived by other stakeholder groups as pursuing their own agenda." This was communicated back to Ms Yano who responded, "The involvement of religious groups in community development has been a concern of mine as well." She went on to explain a number of specifics which she felt "represent valid contemporary alternative approaches to development which arises from indigenous cultural and spiritual worldviews."

In a few cases, IDRC experts refuse a research proposal and provide the reasons for their decision, which are communicated by the YCRA staff to the candidate.

- *Allen Kwabiah's* initial research proposal was not chosen for an award and IDRC evaluators' reasons were passed on to him. It was also suggested that he change the country of his research from Kenya to Cameroon. However, this was not possible in the end, and once he re-worked his proposal and was awarded a YCRA, he carried out his research in Kenya.

#### 4. AFFILIATION TO THE HOST INSTITUTION

As already stated, the awardee's affiliation to the research or training institution varies from very minimal to very detailed.

- *Christian Da Silva* suggested that there should be "a learning contract between awardee and affiliate so that both parties can set objectives for what they wish to gain from the relationship." He felt that both his affiliate institutions, the National Environmental Management Council and the University of Dar es Salaam "were of great assistance in providing advice and guidance particularly in the early stages of my research."



- **David McDonald** had strong ties with the ANC and major trade unions in South Africa which enabled him to collect “case studies that can provide concrete empirical data upon which an analysis of environmental policy can be better made.” His research focus was on how class, race and gender affect the way that environmental issues are politicized in South Africa and the implications this has on environmental policy. The ANC was writing a green paper and he was hoping to contribute to it. He was also registered in the Department for Non-Degree Purposes at the University of the Western Cape.
- Although **Christina Moffat** was affiliated with Tribhuwan University and the Research Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies, she felt the need for further support after a factory manager worried about her presence as a foreigner - a German TV crew had been around earlier filming a documentary on child labour. She notes:  
After this incident I realized that I must be affiliated with a organization to make my presence in the factories credible.

She obtained permission to use a health clinic as a base in order to establish a monitoring program for the children. This was agreed to by a member of the Carpet and Wool Development Board. It was also more acceptable to the participants because she was taking stool samples to be tested for parasites and the clinic setting was more suitable for this work. She consulted with the doctor in order to receive prescriptions for those affected with parasites. She explained:

Because I was taking stool samples, I felt ethically bound to help mothers gain treatment for their children.

Some awardees found that their affiliate institution was not as helpful as they had hoped.

- **Allen Kwabiah** felt that the International Centre for Research and Agroforestry (ICRAF) and the Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility Project (TSBP) in Nairobi was too large and involved in too many projects to work successfully with foreign researchers. He recommended that Master's level researchers only be attached. He noted:  
If a researcher doesn't agree or follow up some of their suggestions, the institute doesn't take it well.
- However, the experience of awardees who are affiliated to ongoing projects, such as **Patricia Spittal**, is quite positive and noted that an attachment to a reputable institution gave them legitimacy as researchers.

Since she was attached to an IDRC project, and affiliated with the Clinical Epidemiology Unit of Makerere University Teaching Hospital, Ms Spittal lived with a team of researchers in Lyantonde, Uganda, with access to living accommodation and office.

A few affiliates requested funding for supervising a foreign researcher, and others provide assistance with securing a research permit, office space, computers, library facilities, transport or accommodation without such requests. Some state in their letters of agreement that while some in-kind assistance can be provided, no funding is available to the awardee.

- **Andres Sanchez-Bain** found that assistance from his affiliate institution was “essential”. The researchers of PSSM (Proyecto Sierra de Santa Marta, made up of Mexican and Canadian researchers from natural and social sciences) are well known and respected in the study area. This facilitated making contacts and being trusted in the communities.

The University was also helpful in providing letters and during ongoing political unrest.

However it is a given that this level of support will not be uniform, since the YCRA awardees work in such a variety of countries.

## 5. FEEDBACK FROM CANADIAN ACADEMIC SUPERVISORS

The YCRA requires that the awardees’ academic supervisors submit interim reports on their progress in the field. This is essential to the process of administering the award since it is the yardstick by which the YCRA measures the progress of the awardees and disburses funding installments accordingly. This is particularly true in the case of those awardees who make changes to their research methodology. In most cases, the report is very brief, usually presented in the form of a letter to the YCRA.

- **Carolyn MacDonald’s** supervisor from University of Guelph, Dr Rosalind Gibson, Professor of Applied Human Nutrition, spent a five-month sabbatical funded by IDRC in Malawi with the Malawi-Guelph Nutrition Project in Mangochi District and visited several of her students, including Ms MacDonald at her research site. Prof. Gibson expressed her gratitude to IDRC for awarding her student a YCRA.

We are indeed fortunate to have young scientists in Canada who are willing to make such a contribution, often at great personal sacrifice. I am extremely impressed by the accomplishments of Carolyn MacDonald and full of admiration for the careful ways in which she organized a double-blind clinical trial under rigorous conditions.

One can see a trend in which a number of supervisors support successive candidates over a period of time for a particular development project overseas supported by their universities. University of Guelph has been particularly adept at this and knows the YCRA process well. Dr. Harry Cummings, Associate Professor in the University of Guelph’s School of Rural Planning and Development, has supervised a number of awardees over the years. He wrote in a letter supporting **Alex MacKenzie’s** candidature:

Since 1984, 15 students have studied in Indonesia as part of the Sulawesi Regional Development Project in Ujung Pandang and more than 10 Master’s theses have been conducted.

This is also true in the case of Dr Gibson, referred to above, also from the University of Guelph which has been involved in health and nutrition research projects in Malawi in conjunction with Dr. Tim Cullinan, Professor of Health and Nutrition at the University of

Malawi for a number of years. Support is more holistic in such cases since specific information is available about the projects before the awardee actually leaves Canada.

- Commenting on *Sherry Yano's* research findings into alternative visions of development, Dr. Jackie Wolfe-Keddie, Graduate Coordinator and Associate Professor at the University of Guelph stated:

I have been working myself for the past 15 years with Aboriginal communities in Canada and Australia and my experience working with and thinking about Aboriginal community development led me to just such a conclusion. I find it intriguing to see how several of my students examine, research, analyze and discover this for themselves, around the globe.

Feedback from supervisors was also important in cases where requirements of the YCRA differ somewhat from university policy. One of the pre-requisites of the YCRA is that doctoral students must complete their comprehensive exams before leaving Canada. However, at the University of Guelph, students in the biological sciences have generally commenced a component of their research project before taking their comprehensive exams. The University carefully screens all doctoral students. As Dr. Gibson noted, "no one has failed comprehensives." *Janet-Marie Huddle*, another of Dr. Gibson's students, also received an award after this explanation was made.

They need to have worked in a less industrialized country for some time and have some previous research experience. With such pre-requisites we aim to avoid any potential difficulties arising from an inadequate performance both in the research field and in the performance in the comprehensive examination.

## 6. FEEDBACK FROM OTHER SOURCES

A few affiliated institutions or organizations in the host country communicate with IDRC.

- *Anna-Marie Ball's* supervisor at the University of Botswana, Dr Sheila Tlou, helped Ms Ball find accommodation in Palapye, the village where Ms Ball was conducting her research. In a letter to IDRC, Dr Tlou, who is from Palapye, noted that the residents of Palapye think she's super and are of the belief or hope that she will one day come to work in Botswana.

But receiving feedback such as this is not the norm. Perhaps a way can be found to request feedback from overseas supervisors without adding to their already onerous administrative workload. One or two requests for remuneration for assisting a foreign researcher have been noted in the files.

## 7. RELEVANCE OF RESEARCH TO IDRC

During the period under review, it appears that the research projects being accepted for funding by the YCRA are increasingly more aligned with IDRC projects and interests.

- *Patricia Spittal* worked on an HIV research project in Uganda supported by IDRC.
- *Andres Sanchez-Bain* conducted his research in Mexico on a project supported by IDRC to formulate and implement a sustainable social and economic strategy for the Biosphere Reserve Sierra de Santa Marta in South Veracruz. Proyecto is a regional NGO receiving some financial support from IDRC.
- *Ellen Hagerman* carried out research in an Amerindian village situated near an IDRC-sponsored forestry project in Guyana.
- *Vanessa Clive* researched technical change, the globalization of business activities and development interested in biotechnology, an area of study directly relevant to IDRC CPF priorities in biodiversity, food systems under stress of technology and environment. She carried out her research in the United States, Mexico and Peru. An IDRC evaluation form in her file states:  
The topic of her study relates directly to a Centre-wide initiative being undertaken by the Technology and Environment Working Group.
- As stated earlier, *Fred Gale's* research was also of specific interest to IDRC experts.
- *Judith Stamp*, a Ph.D student in Geography from the University of Toronto had assistance from an IDRC-sponsored project, *Value of Trees*, affiliated with the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Zimbabwe, her affiliate institution.

## **PART III**

### **TRENDS**

This section of the report attempts to highlight the common threads which weave in and out of the research gleaned from awardees' files in Part II. Of particular note is the excellent calibre of the awardees, the quality of the research projects in which they are engaged, and the flexibility of the YCRA administration which has already been noted. The files make fascinating reading and more effort should be made to publicize the awardees' results in order to give the program a higher profile. It is probably true that IDRC projects are better known overseas than they are here in Canada.

*Flexibility* is a word that threads its way all through the YCRA program. Not only is the program itself very flexible, in terms of its parameters and administration, but also the awardees' research shows an impressive amount of flexibility. They are able to change their methodology and structure as required by conditions they find in their host countries.

Other trends noted throughout the research include the following:

#### **a) Linkages**

Linkages of many kinds kept recurring throughout this exercise: linkages between awardees and their universities, between awardees and IDRC experts, between well-established projects such as the Guelph projects in Indonesia and Malawi and the YCRA recipients, between awardees and their affiliate institutions, between awardees and the NGOs they have worked for previously and between awardees and the target groups they interacted with during their research overseas.

#### ***With IDRC***

Some awardees were associated with IDRC before their award, or after. *Christian Da Silva* was an associate with IDRC in 1993 before he received a YCRA and worked at IDRC after he completed his award. *Peter di Cenzo* was a project manager of the IDRC Soil Erosion (China) Project and *Gaetan Desmarais* worked on an IDRC project in West Africa before he received his award.

Others like *Ellen Hagerman*, *Patricia Spittal*, *Robert Davidson* and *Marc Roulet* conducted research within, or in close proximity to, IDRC-supported projects.

#### **With previous overseas experience**

There is also a link between the quality of work of an awardee and the amount of previous overseas experience, particularly in the case of *Anna-Marie Ball*, whose writing shows her sensitivity and knowledge of her subject.

Ms Ball began the introduction to her thesis this way:

This dissertation is well travelled and it has the fingerprints of many people on it.

This sentence could only have been written by a person who has spent a number of years in the southern African region.

### **With the host community**

As already outlined in the previous section many awardees formed strong linkages with their host communities. Some were successful in assisting their communities in a variety of ways. Many stated that they received far more from the relationship than they felt they had given back.

### **With academic supervisors**

Another link that is strong and clear is the one made by awardees with an academic supervisor who has already monitored other post-graduate researchers in the past. Again the case of Drs Harry Cummings and Rosalind Gibson of the University of Guelph comes to mind. The table on page 12 lists the awardees' university affiliations.

## **b) Affiliations and Linkages with NGOs**

There are also trends in affiliation of researchers, their universities and countries and other Canadian organizations involved in international development. Those who have had previous overseas experience have often worked for a not-for-profit agency in the Canadian or international NGO community.

Many agencies are listed in the files of the awardees with which they have considerable experience before they decided to return to academic studies: The list includes CUSO, WUSC, Oxfam, Canada World Youth, Canadian Crossroads International, MSF, CECI, Aga Khan, CARE, UNICEF, UNHCR, VSO and APSO, the Irish voluntary international agency.

For example, connections were found to four WUSC programs; to international student programs; to the Canadian graduate student Applied Research Program in Malawi; to the Annual International Seminar, and to the overseas development worker program. They are documented below:

- **Anna-Marie Ball**, who conducted her health research in Botswana, was a doctoral student at University of Manitoba which has had a previous affiliation with Botswana. A Government of Botswana Award, administered by WUSC a number of years ago, enabled nurses from Botswana to upgrade their academic qualifications at the University of Manitoba. The award program, now in its sixth year, has also enabled many post-secondary school students from Botswana to study at Canadian universities in a variety of fields.

- University of Guelph's Dr Rosalind Gibson obtained an IDRC sabbatical leave scholarship to conduct her research and supervise students *Janet-Marie Huddle* and *Carolyn MacDonald* on the Guelph-Malawi Nutrition Project in Mangochi District in Malawi, a country where WUSC also has a program involving 20 development workers. WUSC has assisted a Safe Motherhood Project in Mangochi by recommending it for a Canada Fund grant from the Canadian High Commission.

One of the WUSC Applied Research Project graduate students, also from the University of Guelph, worked with the Mangochi Project in the summer of 1996.

- *Dan Paradis* was a WUSC seminar participant to Indonesia prior to his YCRA tenure.
- *David Rowbotham* was a WUSC teacher in Bhutan before he became a YCRA recipient.

Other links were found:

- *Peter di Cenzo* worked with Prof. Luk of the University of Toronto School of Human Biology, who has had a long-time collaboration (since 1987) with FUNDAGRO in Ecuador.
- *Christian Da Silva* arrived in Tanzania as part of a Commonwealth Academic exchange arrangement involving Carleton University and University of Dar es Salaam. He was registered as a full-time graduate student in the Faculty of Education.

### c) The Role of Women: The Importance of Empowerment

Women, as instruments of change, pervades the research. Women may be direct recipients of assistance such as in the delivery of clean water in Indonesia, but they must also take ownership of the project if it is going to be sustainable.

- *Yolande Geadah* stressed the importance of women as change agents in Egypt.
- *Mitundi Ndunda* noted that in Kenya  
women's lot is not a happy one because of the sexism that pervades the entire society. It is crucial that policies begin to take gender as a category of analysis. Women are using their traditional organizing strategies in their struggle against gender inequities in Kenya.

She also stressed the crucial role mothers play in the education of their children.

There is a gender divide - preference for sons is prevalent. Girls are viewed as temporary members of the family because they are lost to their husband's family. Women have taken on new challenges as family buffers, food providers, caregivers, educators, traders, small hold farmers - all labour intensive activities. They note that success is limited by lack of resources. The women's stories showed how they have re-negotiated, modified and resisted gender assumptions and created possibilities for their children and daughters in particular.

- **Kofi Barimah** attempted to use an empowerment agenda framework which focuses on both process and outcome. The aim was to improve the efficacy of the services at the Nutrition Centre. He found that women who had participated in a nutrition program PAMSCAD - (Program of Action to Mitigate the Social Cost of Adjustment) in Ayeredee in the Nkoranza district of the Brong-Ahafo region of Ghana, were confident about the health and nutrition skills that they had acquired; they have improved access to food, they showed a strong sense of confidence, they were satisfied with the program.

But he recommended that mothers should have the means to engage in income-generating ventures and that the health/nutrition status of children must be seen as a community problem not an individual one.

- **Dodo Motsisi** found 100 percent of refugee women's work involved traditional roles (rug making, sewing, knitting)  
which suggests a resurgence of prescribed traditional gender roles, namely that produce for domestic consumption whereas men produce goods for both domestic and public consumption.
- **Colin Millette** chose Sulawesi, Indonesia as the site of his water resources research because of a recent resurgence of donor activity (World Bank) in the provision of water supply and sanitary facilities. The community's stake in the system revolves around their willingness to pay - i.e. a decision to use the facilities and commit financial resources.  
A common problem in Indonesia is the lack of community awareness concerning the importance of maintaining the water supply facilities. Women traditionally become disenfranchised from the decision-making process and from acquiring the technical skills needed to manage the system.

#### d) Ethical Questions

A number of ethical questions threaded their way through awardees' research. It appears that most centred around the subjects of health, nutrition and HIV/AIDS - in other words, information gathered from the host community that is of a very personal nature.

#### Sensitive research topics

- Some awardees like **Patricia Spittal** were challenged to remain professional in the face of emotional situations encountered in their research. Her experience is perhaps the most difficult in terms of ethical questions raised and the team's inability to find ways "to give back" to the community. Ms Spittal was one of four researchers who studied groups at risk for HIV transmission in Uganda. They found Lyatonde, the research location a "numbing place".

The stories heard in the community are not comfortable, but rather, requiring comfort. Recently the research assistants working in Lyatonde have attended funerals almost every day. Key communicators have become friends and when they die, it is important to comfort the family and perhaps speak at the funeral on behalf of the family. Over the period of 14 months of research some are asking, 'What are you going to do for us?' They want help for their children.

Accountability to community members (returning to the community the results of qualitative research) is viewed by the team as essential to continued life and work in the



community. 'Friends offer something.' ... having taken their life stories, something needs to be offered in return to address unmet, felt needs."

In spite of their desire to give something back to the community, the team realized any intervention such as counselling programs aimed at prevention of HIV, would not be enough.

It doesn't address the complex situational requirements and actual needs of persons at risk for HIV/AIDS. How one enables persons living in this environment to take deliberate health promoting steps is exceedingly difficult, especially when everyone thinks they are dying.

Ms Spittal found her research "sad and depressing." Having difficulties in incorporating participation by the community,

Our intent had always been participatory but so far our process had not been. It would seem like we have exploited them just to collect data... During a mid-point retreat, they admitted their emotional exhaustion and realized a transforming moment: a dead silence of grief. They began to question their work, had feelings of guilt, embarrassment and naivety, uncertain what to do next. They intimately touched knowledge and in the process, came face to face with themselves.

### **Incorporating traditional beliefs**

- *Andres Sanchez-Bain* conducted research in an area in Mexico that was made up of two indigenous peoples, the Nahua and the Zoque-Popolucas. Part of his research involved the study of stories and old customs revealed through a dance (Danza del Tigre) which was performed in the 1940s and early 1950s. He wanted to use the information gathered to contribute to the people's understanding of the occurrence of diarrheal and parasitic infections and their transmission through behavior. He stated:

Health programs should emphasize the possibility of having preventive measures that may be under a person's control, not of the supernatural realm.

### **Community distrust**

- *Carolyn MacDonald* changed the location of her study of malnourished children in Malawi when she first arrived because of distrust of some members in the participating community.

Accusations had been made that blood was being taken from pregnant women in large quantities to be sold for a profit in Canada by the researchers. As a result (they felt) their babies were dying.

She ended up doing her research in the nutrition ward of Mangochi Hospital which was a better location because it provided better support and opportunities for collaboration using the national weaning food - *Likuni Phala*. Children in the nutrition ward received LP and high energy milk and stayed for an average of six weeks. She was able to randomly assign 60 children to three control groups, each receiving LP fortified with a number of ingredients including zinc.

In addition, examining of children (including taking blood samples) is more readily acceptable at a hospital than in a village health centre.

Major problems she encountered including an overwhelming increase in the number of malnourished children being admitted to the ward due to a severe drought and

consequent lack of food, and absconding of children (by their caregivers who distrusted the hospital setting) from the hospital before the children's health improved and results were in. She also reported a high rate of HIV infection in her study area - over 50 percent.

### Methodology

- **Anna-Marie Ball** did not pose personal questions during her interviews with adolescents in Botswana who are increasingly at risk of contracting HIV, even though reproductive health education is available to them.

This lack of success of traditional health education may be due to a failure to define the social and cultural construction of risk by specific sub-populations. Adolescents, particularly in societies 'in transition', such as developing countries, may define risk differently to the dominant culture.

Ms Ball used questions not aimed at the participants personally so that they could talk about their friends or about a hypothetical person who was the same age, same educational level and same village.

Through the use of projective techniques, the questions that might have been considered threatening if used directly, were made less threatening.

She found that in-school children were most positive about the future. Out-of-school children expressed their frustration at the lack of opportunities, no jobs, and few training opportunities. "They expressed a general feeling of unhappiness about their lives," she noted.

### Paying participants

- **Peter Berti** finally decided to pay participants in his studies because he had difficulty attracting subjects for his water quality research. He also felt he should compensate them for their time away from productive work. The question of paying participants has come up a few times in the files researched for this study.

### Research considered political

- **Mutindi Ndunda** studied the experience of women of Kilome, Kenya in terms of their access to formal education. In her second progress report she notes: "Many rural women have invited me to their self-help women's groups." She was able to introduce herself and the work she was doing and to request the support and participation of the women.

Many were very eager to participate which made it easier to do research, but some women were of the opinion that I could help them find ways through which they could pay for their children's school fees. Others thought I could buy them food since there was a famine in the area.

But she also found that women were being harassed by "big shots" for holding a meeting and interpreted her research in political terms. Although her focus group was women between the ages of 20-45, but she interviewed a few older women who were part of a group she was working with "because it would be impolite to turn them back." Consequently these older women's experience "are important in giving me a picture of

how my cultural assumptions on women's roles have changed/not changed over the time period."

Although rural women strongly believe that a good education and a paid job are synonymous with empowerment the professional women's experiences show that the struggle for self-efficacy continues in the public and private sphere.

#### e) Giving back to the community

As already mentioned, most awardees expressed a desire to give something back to the community in which they conducted their research. Some left equipment, others returned their research findings to the community and discussed it with them in meetings.

- *Sherry Yano* had her research translated into Thai because she had promised her affiliate institution and the community she was working with copies in their language.

Most of those who expressed a desire to contribute to the community did so because they felt that the transfer of information had travelled just one way - from the community to the researcher. This does not appear to them to contribute to the process of sustainable and equitable development which is a two-way process. As *Sherry Yano* reflected:

Development, then, appears to be a dialogue or intermingling of the reflections, experiences, hopes and visions of all the participants.

#### f) Value of Previous Overseas Experience

If the ultimate aim of the YCRA is to ensure that emerging researchers remain in careers promoting sustainable and equitable development, it would appear that previous overseas experience pre-disposes candidates to such a personal goal.

- *Judith Stamp* spent part of her childhood/school years in South Africa and did a reconnaissance trip to Zimbabwe, funded by an IDRC grant, before embarking upon her YCRA research in Zimbabwe.
- *Anna-Marie Ball* lived in southern Africa for nearly a decade.
- Others such as *Colin Millette*, *Ellen Hagerman*, *David Rowbotham*, *Carole MacDonald*, *David McDonald*, *Lori Bell* and *Christian Da Silva* had previous overseas work experience, as Canadian development workers or as employees of international NGOs such as CPAR, Aga Khan, CUSO, CECI, WUSC, Oxfam, Canada World Youth, Canadian Crossroads International, MSF and UN agencies such as UNICEF, UNHCR and WHO.

Finally others such as *Dan Paradis* had only limited travel experience - participation on a six-week international seminar to Indonesia with WUSC. He spent three weeks at the University of Guelph project in Sulawesi at the end of the seminar. *Christina Moffat* worked with aboriginal communities and made a preliminary visit to Nepal before she started her

research for her YCRA award. Both were conducting research at the master's level.

Now that the YCRA is awarded to students at the doctoral level only it is likely that more and more candidates will already have previous overseas experience.

Although such experience is not necessarily a defining indication that a researcher will succeed, it is a definite advantage. But having said that, there can be exceptions and even a lot of previous overseas experience can result in the unexpected:

- *Edward Osei-Kwadwo* who did his research in Ghana, the country of his birth, found that "Research has yielded results that I as hither to unaware inspite of my 'expertise' on Ghana."

He discovered that sample surveys and other quantitative techniques were inappropriate in a country like Ghana where people were wary and unwilling to talk about the social and economic effects of structural adjustment on the population.

Besides Mr Osei-Kwadwa, *Mutindi Ndunda* and *Kofi Barimah* also returned to their countries of origin to conduct their research. There appears to be no reason why such projects should not be eligible for a YCRA.

#### **g) Nature of applied research: Responsive and relevant**

Inspite of the fact that conducting research is regarded by many as an academic exercise, a number of awardees were concerned with applying their research to practical applications which are both responsive and relevant.

- *David McDonald*, who carried out environmental research in South Africa noted in his report:

This interest in practical issues is something that I have given a lot of thought to. I realize that academic work, almost by nature, is something removed from the nuts and bolts of everyday life, but I want to try and make my research work as practical as as possible. Participative research is one example and developing workshops (for the workers) is another.

#### **h) Difficulties encountered**

As outlined in the case studies, difficulties were overcome in various ways and most awardees did not report negative results which adversely affected their research. It is not known whether any YCRA recipient has ever failed to complete his or her thesis or dissertation due to difficulties experienced during the tenure of their YCRA.

**i) Is age a relevant factor?**

No mention has been made in this study of the age of the awardees because age does not appear to be a significant factor in any aspect of the YCRA program. In fact at least one awardee, *Fred Gale* suggested that the word “young” be removed from the title altogether and the title of the program has changed recently with this suggestion in mind.

**j) Length of Research**

No trends, in terms of successes or failures, were noted in the length of time a researcher conducted his/her research in the host country. This is no doubt due to the fact that each researcher's objectives are very different.

## *Part IV*

### **Recommendations**

The recommendations listed below follow from the trends noted in Part III and also take into account the ideas and recommendations of the awardees themselves.

#### **1. Concerning the awardees**

- a) **The Age Factor:** Age should not be considered when selecting awardees.  
Throughout the study, age did not come up as a factor at any time. It was noted that the older awardees tended to be women which may suggest that they have other obligations (such as family) before they have the time to undertake post-graduate work. Now that the program targets only doctoral students, it is likely that candidates with more experience, maturity and greater academic experience will apply.
- b) **Previous Overseas Experience:** This is essential to their success in the host country. More opportunities exist, at the university level, within NGO programming or through international exchanges and internships than when the YCRA first started in 1982 so it is likely that candidates already have some previous overseas experience. How much overseas experience should be defined is not the task of this study, but if a doctoral candidate who applies to the YCRA has no overseas experience, one needs to ask the question - why is this person interested in overseas development at this stage of their academic life?
- c) **Language:** Some facility in the language of the host country target group is highly desirable, or the willingness of the candidate to gain this facility while in the host country, even though the award does not cover the cost.
- d) **Career Goals:** The ultimate aim of the candidates' research, i.e. whether they hope to remain in academic research either as researchers or lecturers should not necessarily be the final yardstick in evaluating their suitability. Instead, the quality of the research, its relevance to IDRC's objectives and to the host country should be the final measurement for selection.
- e) **Host Country:** YCRA awardees who were not born in Canada should be allowed to conduct research in their country of birth.
- f) **Personal skills:** Awardees' personal skills, such as skills of leadership, communication, organization; cultural and political sensitivity; ability to work as part of a team, a positive outlook on life, flexibility and adaptability, and a sense of humour should be taken into consideration along with academic excellence and the quality of their research project.

Perhaps referees and academic supervisors can complete a form based on a 1-10 scale, similar to what is provided to the IDRC experts. These personal skills will ensure that the awardee will be able to function successfully in the host country, whatever difficulties they encounter.

The awardees whose research experience stands out during the period under review, such as *Fred Gale, Ellen Hagerman, Anna-Marie Ball, Vanessa Clive, Colin Millette, Carolyn MacDonald* and *Patricia Spittal*, all appeared to have the personal attributes that enabled them to undertake excellent research projects and overcome any adversity in the process.

- g) **Equity:** The ratio of male to female awardees appears quite equitable during the period under review and there were a number of 'new' Canadians and landed immigrant awardees amongst the 103 awardees. Francophones were represented - some chose to conduct their research in English. Some universities were very well represented and although this should not be discouraged, perhaps measures should be taken to encourage candidates to apply from non-represented universities, particularly in other parts of the country. There are no statistics available which could show the number of candidates who applied and their university affiliation, to see whether some candidates from non-represented universities do apply and fail to qualify for an award.
- h) **Follow-up:** A majority of files for the 1991-94 period do not have a yellow sheet from the IDRC library stating when their theses or dissertations were sent. A system of follow up will have to be initiated if the Centre wants to receive their research.

## 2. Concerning Administration

As stated elsewhere, one of the greatest strengths of the program is its flexibility to respond to the needs of the awardees. Below are some recommendations aimed at facilitating this process.

- a) **The files:** The files were quite bulky and somewhat awkward to handle, particularly if one attempted to read documents printed on both sides of the page. Many had yellow 'post-it' notes attached to highlight budget or banking information for easy reference. Keeping the financial information on the left side of the file, separate from the correspondence, may make the files more user friendly and easier to manage. Also noted was some duplication of documents such as more than one copy of a research proposal, interim report, e-mail message or letter. The use of coloured paper to denote specific documents also makes them easier to find.
- b) **The forms:** There have been changes to the various forms and documents during 1991-94 and improvements have been noted. Some forms are designed incorporating both official languages on the same form and others are printed separately in each language

It would be preferable to standardize the forms, in terms of language, design and ease of completion.

- c) **The contract:** Since it is a formal document, more specific information should be included as a way of amalgamating all the necessary steps which an awardee must take in order to conduct him or herself during the tenure of the YCRA - for example the requirement to register at the nearest Canadian Embassy or High Commission, giving permission to IDRC to use their profiles for publicity purposes, whether equipment used during research must be left in the host country, or any other aspect of the tenure for which the awardee is held responsible. The contract should be updated regularly to reflect all these aspects of the tenure as they arise.
- d) **Awardee information form:** For all the files leading up to 1994 when CENTRA became operational, there was, on the left side of the awardees' files, a pink information form which contained, at a glance all the information one requires to know about the awardee. This was invaluable as a handy reference. However, about mid-way through 1994, this system was changed and the pink sheet is no longer a feature of these files. A new profile form should be designed and put in use.
- e) **Emergency information:** Although a permanent address appears on awardees' application forms, there is no information about whom to contact in case of emergency. Such a form could be designed and filled out by the awardees before they leave Canada. It could provide information such as the next-of-kins' names and addresses and could also include the banking information. This form could also be filed on the left side of the file for easy reference. The 'next-of-kin' address is also useful if a tracking system is instituted to trace awardees who have not yet sent in their research results.
- f) **Letter of introduction:** A letter of introduction, 'to whom it may concern', was found in a few files in which awardees had specifically requested one. This should be provided to all awardees since such letters can facilitate the acquisition of visas or special requirements in the host country.
- g) **The Recruitment Process:** All information must be completed before an awardee receives the letter announcing that the application was successful. The requirement for affiliation with a host country institution remains a difficult one to pin down. This should be re-evaluated and assessed to see if a solution can be found as how to grade this aspect of the application and how to make the link more effective.
- h) **Photos:** Ask awardees for several photos (passport size) for their files which could be used in any publicity. Also ask for photos to be sent from the field or after they return to Canada for possible publicity use.
- i) **Renewals:** For awardees who wish to to apply to renew their award or apply for an



new one, it would be very useful to make a note of the new award in the initial award file. It is not clear why it is not considered an extension of the existing award.

### 3. Providing information to awardees

- a) **The budget:** Although information is provided about what costs the YCRA covers, more information concerning the budget should be given - a list of what is **not** covered, for example. Many questions arise in the files, about whether or not language training is covered, whether award money can be sent to an institution's account, whether it will cover a trip to a conference being held in a third country, whether it will cover gratuities or gifts to participants. It is possible that this information is already being given to awardees and that they do not absorb it all here in Canada, until the need arises overseas. They may also forget the advice given to keep all receipts, airline tickets and that they are responsible for all matters concerning taxes. Reinforcement of this information needs to be given.
- b) **Feedback from IDRC experts:** The 1994 files appear to contain more feedback from the IDRC experts than in earlier files and this should continue as much as possible. It is clear that awardees value not only the award, but also the expertise housed within IDRC and feel privileged to be associated with the Centre.
- c) **Feedback from other awardees:** The files are full of excellent stories, lessons learned and advice to others - how to apply for visas, the suggestion to take extra passport photos, etc. A way needs to be found to transmit this valuable information to new awardees, particularly if it relates to the same research topic or host country. Perhaps additional questions can be added to the final report form asking questions about lessons learned and seeking advice for new awardees.
- d) **Linkages:** A system of mentoring would also be valuable, where previous awardees are encouraged to get in touch with new ones. Now that e-mail is prevalent and so immediate, it may be possible to make the links between past, present and new awardees.
- e) **Pre-departure package:** This package should be examined and reviewed with a view of ensuring that awardees have pertinent information. It was also suggested by Denise Deby who reviewed *Mutindi Ndunda's* research proposal that IDRC's regional priorities be provided to awardees. Other awardees have requested information about IDRC's projects in a country or region. Other information might also be useful, such as the availability of the Canada Fund within the host country.

For awardees like *Carolyn MacDonald*, who wanted to provide her target group with assistance, it may have been useful to know that Canada Fund, administered by the

Canadian Embassy or High Commission in the region, provides grants to local NGOs and community groups in areas of agricultural and community development, safe water and other health-related projects, and a variety of educational projects.

#### **4. About the YCRA program**

- a) Use the YCRA program to enhance IDRC objectives. Examine what is the value of the YCRA to IDRC. Although awardees direct their own research and work independently, it should be of relevance to IDRC.
- b) Publicize the successes more widely. As Canadians we have a good reputation abroad and the awardees no doubt benefit from the fact that Canadians are well received internationally and are seen as partners in the development process. The IDRC Home Page in the Internet is providing more exposure now.
- c) Conduct a 'where are they now' follow-up survey to find out what past awardees are doing and at the same time solicit theses and dissertations from those who have not yet submitted theirs.

**Appendix: Alphabetical List of YCRA Awardees's Files Studied for this Report**

<b>Awardee</b>	<b>ID number</b>	<b>Degree</b>	<b>University</b>	<b>Field</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Title of Research</b>
<b>BALL, Anna-Marie</b>	92-1201-20	Ph.D	Manitoba	Health	Botswana	The social and cultural construction of sexual risk by youth in Botswana
<b>BARIMAH, Kofi</b>	92-1201-15	MA	Wilfrid Laurier	Health/ Nutrition	Ghana	An outcome and process evaluation for the program of action to mitigate the social cost of adjustment (PAMSCAD) project in the Brong-Ahafo Region of Ghana
<b>BÉLANGER, Danièle</b>	94-1200-25	Ph.D	Montréal	Health	Vietnam	Des générations au coeur du changement : Sexualité et santé reproductive des jeunes urbains au Vietnam
<b>BELL, Lori</b>	93-1201-12	M Sc	McGill	Health	Pakistan	Are community health workers effective in the delivery of primary health care in developing countries? A critical literature review and protocol formulation
<b>BERTI, Peter</b>	93-1201-23	Ph.D	Guelph	Health/ Nutrition	Ecuador	Dietary adequacy and its relationship to anthropometric status in a highland Ecuadorian community
<b>BLACKLOCK, Cathy</b>	91-1025-12	Ph.D	Carleton	GAD/ Poly Sci	Guatemala	Women's political participation in the context of democratization: The case of Guatemala
<b>CLIVE, Vanessa</b>	94-1200-18	Ph.D	Toronto	Agro Biotech.	USA/Peru Mexico	Changes in the U.S. innovation system affecting maize biotechnology research and their implications for CIMMYT
<b>COCKERTON, Camilla</b>	91-1025-24	Ph.D	Queen's	GAD	Botswana	Geography of women's migration to South Africa in colonial and post-colonial Botswana
<b>DA SILVA , Christian</b>	93-1201-15	MA	Carleton	Education	Tanzania	Environment Education in Tanzania - making a case of traditional environment knowledge (TEK) in the life of secondary schools.
<b>DAVIDSON, Robert</b>	94-1200-16	Ph.D	UQAM	ENV	Ecuador	Sylviculture en région tropicale humide sur sols dégradés
<b>DESMARAIS, Gaetan</b>	92-1201-22	Ph.D	McGill	ENV	Bénin	Thermal characteristics of various physical configurations of a screenhouse in African tropical climatic conditions
<b>DI CENZO, Peter</b>	92-1201-38	Ph.D	Toronto	ENV	China	Tunnel erosion as a contributor to basin sediment and water yield in a small catchment, Loess Plateau

<b>DWIVEDI, Archana</b>	92-1201-13	Msc	Guelph	Health	India	Community involvement in health programming, a government and non-government perspective: Udaipur District, Rajasthan, India
<b>GALE, Fred</b>	93-1201-22	Ph.D	Carleton	ENV	various	The political economy of international environment cooperation: The role and effectiveness of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)
<b>GEADAH, Yolande</b>	93-1201-19	Ph.D	UQAM	GAD	Égypte	Étude sur l'évaluation de l'impact des projets de développement sur les rapport sociaux de sexes
<b>HAGERMAN, Ellen</b>	94-1200-36	MA	UQAM	ENV COM	Guyana	Participatory rural appraisal in Guyana - identifying the communication needs of Amerindians
<b>HUDDLE, Janet-Marie</b>	92-1201-39	Ph.D	Guelph	Health/ Nutrition	Malawi	Development of an anthropometric screening tool to identify rural pregnant women at risk to poor pregnancy outcome in southern Malawi
<b>JUERGENSEN, Olaf</b>	92-1201-37	Ph.D	Queen's	Geography	Malawi Mozambique	Peasants on the periphery: A geohistory of rural change in Mozambique 1960-92
<b>KWABIAH, Allen</b>	94-1200-12	Ph.D	Guelph	Agric.	Kenya	Synchrony and localization of nitrogen (N) release and uptake for maize production in the African tropics
<b>LATENDRESSE, Anne</b>	94-1200-37	Ph.D	UQAM	Urb.	Israel	Dynamique palestinienne et destructuration-restructuration de Jérusalem-est 1967-1994
<b>MACDONALD, Carolyn</b>	94-1200-15	Ph.D	Guelph	Health/ Nutrition	Malawi	Zinc deficiency and growth faltering in rural southern Malawian infants and modifications of local weaning foods to combat deficiency
<b>MACKENZIE, Alex</b>	91-1025-31	MSc	Guelph	ENV	Indonesia	A methodology for involvement of remote communities in watershed management in Sulawesi Selatan, Indonesia
<b>MCDONALD, David</b>	93-1201-21	Ph.D	Toronto	ENV	South Africa	The politics of ecology in South Africa: Local government restructuring and environmental policy in Cape Town
<b>MILLETTE, Colin</b>	92-1201-33	MSc	Guelph	GAD ENV	Indonesia	Assessing the role of women in a community management approach for the planning and implementation of domestic water supplies in Sulawesi, Indonesia
<b>MOFFAT, Christina</b>	94-1200-11	Ph.D	McMaster	GAD Health	Nepal	Working women: The productive and reproductive roles of women working in the carpet-making industry in Kathmandu, Nepal

<b>MOTSISI, Dodo (Ms)</b>	91-1025-14	Ph.D	Manitoba	Refugee studies	Zimbabwe	The impact of refugee aid on refugee vulnerable groups: A socio-economic and demographic study of Tongogara, Mazowe and Nyangombe camps in Zimbabwe
<b>NDUNDA, Mutindi (Ms)</b>	93-1201-13	Ph.D	UBC	GAD	Kenya	Education development policies: The experiences of the women of Kilome, Kenya
<b>OSEI-KWADWO, Edward</b>	93-1201-16	Ph.D	Carleton	Social Science	Ghana	The political sustainability of structural adjustment programmes: Ghana 1982-1993
<b>PARADIS, Dan</b>	94-1200-14	MSc	Guelph	ENV	Indonesia	An agroecosystems approach to local resettlement and in situ development in central Sulawesi
<b>RODNEY, Patricia</b>	91-1025-17	Ph.D	Toronto	Health GAD	Barbados	The health care system of the Caribbean and its impact on women's health
<b>ROULET, Marc</b>	94-1200-26	Ph.D	UQAM	ENV	Brésil	Biogéochimie du mercure dans la vallée du Tapajos, Amazonie brésilienne
<b>ROWBOTHAM, David</b>	91-1025-19	Ph.D	Waterloo	ENV	Nepal	Applying a GIS to land use hazards in Phewa Tal watershed, Nepal
<b>SANCHEZ-BAIN, Andres</b>	92-1201-40	MA	Carleton	ENV	Mexico	Environmental sanitation and hygiene: A study of behavioral risk factors in the transmission of water and sanitation-related infectious diseases among the Zoque-Popolucas, Mexico
<b>SPITTAL, Patricia</b>	93-1201-18	Ph.D	McMaster	Health	Uganda	No longer strangers: Participatory evidence and the development of culturally appropriate HIV/AIDS interventions in Lyantonde, Uganda
<b>STAMP, Judith</b>	93-1201-11	Ph.D	Toronto	Agro-forestry	Zimbabwe	The indigenous agroforestry system in Zimbabwe: Is it sustainable? A study of communal villages, incorporating and evaluating participatory methods
<b>YANO, Sherry</b>	94-1200-17	MSc	Guelph	ENV	Thailand	Alternative visions of development in rural Thailand